FRIDAY
November 7, 2025

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Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

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TRIAL PHASE OF CENSUS

Two apps, test portal for self-enumeration go live

NEWS » PAGE 16

PROBE ON

'Severe' GPS spoofing flagged over Delhi airspace

NEWS » PAGE 18

PARLEY

Is using AI-based tools for mental health useful?

Experts discuss positives and pitfalls of such tools

OPINION » PAGE 15

Record 64.66% voting in first phase of Bihar polls

Polling was peaceful, says EC; turnout surpasses 62.57% recorded in 2000 Assembly election; BJP says high polling shows people's faith in NDA; the grand alliance interprets it as a 'wave of change'

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Bihar recorded its "highest-ever" voter turnout of 64.66% as the first phase of the Assembly election ended on Thursday. In this phase, 121 Assembly constituencies in 18 districts went to the polls with a total electorate of over 3.75 crore. The Election Commission of India (EC) said voting was peaceful.

The figures better the 62.57% turnout of the 2000 Assembly election. In the 2020 election, the voting percentage in the first phase was 57.29. The highest turnout in a Lok Sabha election was 64.6%, in 1998.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar congratulated the voters for the historic turnout since 1951. He thanked the electors for expressing their faith in the poll body and turning out to vote with enthusiasm. He lauded the election machinery for working with full transparency and dedication.

"Bihar has shown the way to the nation. SIR with zero appeals and highest voter turnout since 1951. Purest electoral rolls and enthusiastic participation of electors. Transparent and dedicated election machinery. Democracy wins. It has been an amazing journey for ECI," he said.

Decisive choice: Women voters with inked fingers after casting their votes in the Bihar Assembly polls on Thursday. X/@CEOBIHAR

Earlier, Bihar Chief Electoral Officer Vinod Singh Gunjiyal said voting took place in 45,314 booths.

Parties react

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary said that reports from representatives and candidates indicate that the National Democratic Alliance will win around 100 of the 121 seats. He said this year's results will break the record of 2010 election outcome.

Mr. Choudhary said Tejashwi Yadav, the Mahagatbandhan's chief ministerial candidate, will lose from Raghopur.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16
RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 17

Centre says right to vote different from freedom of voting

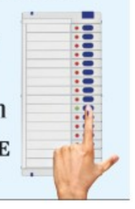
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Centre has argued in the Supreme Court that the 'right to vote' in an election is different from the 'freedom of voting', and while one is a mere statutory right, the second is a part of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.

The case was listed before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant for hearing on Thursday. However, the Bench did not assemble.

The Centre was responding to a petition seeking to declare Section 53(2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and Rule 11 read with Forms 21 and 21B of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, which apply to 'uncontested elections', *ultra vires* the Constitution for violating freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a). Section 53(2) kicks in when the number of candidates equals the number of seats to be filled in an Assembly or Lok Sabha election.

> The 'right to vote' is only a statutory right conferred by Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act of 1951. Freedom of voting is a species of the right to expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution
> **THE CENTRE** in its affidavit



CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16

NEARBY

Go back to single judge for lifting stay on GO: HC

BENGALURU
A Division Bench of the High Court told the State government to go back to the single judge with an application to vacate the interim order of staying the Government Order (GO) issued on October 18, which classifies public gathering of 10 or more individuals in public places, including parks, playgrounds, roads, etc., without prior authorisation, as a criminal offence. » PAGE 12

METROPLUS » PAGE 11

Autumn hues

Exquisite corridor: Visitors relax in Srinagar's Mughal garden on Thursday as Chinar trees shed leaves in autumn. IMRAN NISSAR

MP remark on national anthem draws flak

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP MP from Uttara Kannada Vishveshwara Kageri sparked a controversy by claiming that the national anthem "Jana Gana Mana" was "originally written to welcome British officials" and that "Vande Mataram" should have been chosen as India's national anthem instead. The former Speaker's statement came at an event in Honnavar to mark 150 years of "Vande Mataram". His remark drew sharp criticism from RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

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CM writes to PM seeking meet to address FRP concerns

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the sugarcane growers' protest demanding a Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of ₹3,500 per tonne in the State's northern sugar bowl turned the heat on the government, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday blamed the Centre for the problem and wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking an urgent meeting with him to address the issues.

In the letter that was released to the press, the Chief Minister sought to draw the Prime Minister's attention to the ongoing agitation by sugarcane farmers in North Karnataka, particularly in Belagavi, Bagalkote, Vijayapura, Vijayanagara, Bidar, Gadag, Hubli-Dharwad and Haveri districts.

Agitating farmers set tyres on fire at Afzalpur, in Kalaburagi district, on Thursday, demanding price of ₹3,500 per tonne of sugarcane. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SUGARCANE FARMERS' PROTEST

He pointed out that the FRP fixed by the Central government for the 2025-26 season stands at ₹3,550 per tonne for a basic recovery rate of 10.25%. "However, after deducting the mandatory harvesting and transport (H & T) costs, which range between ₹800 and ₹900 per tonne, the effective payment reaching the farmer is only about ₹2,600 to ₹3,000 per tonne. But due to sharp increases in fertilizer, labour, irrigation and transport costs, this pricing structure has rendered sugarcane cultivation economically unsustainable," he said.

He argued that the root of the problem is the Central policy levers, the FRP formula, the stagnating Minimum Support Price (MSP) for sugar, export curbs on sugar and the under-utilised ethanol offtake from sugar-based feedstock.

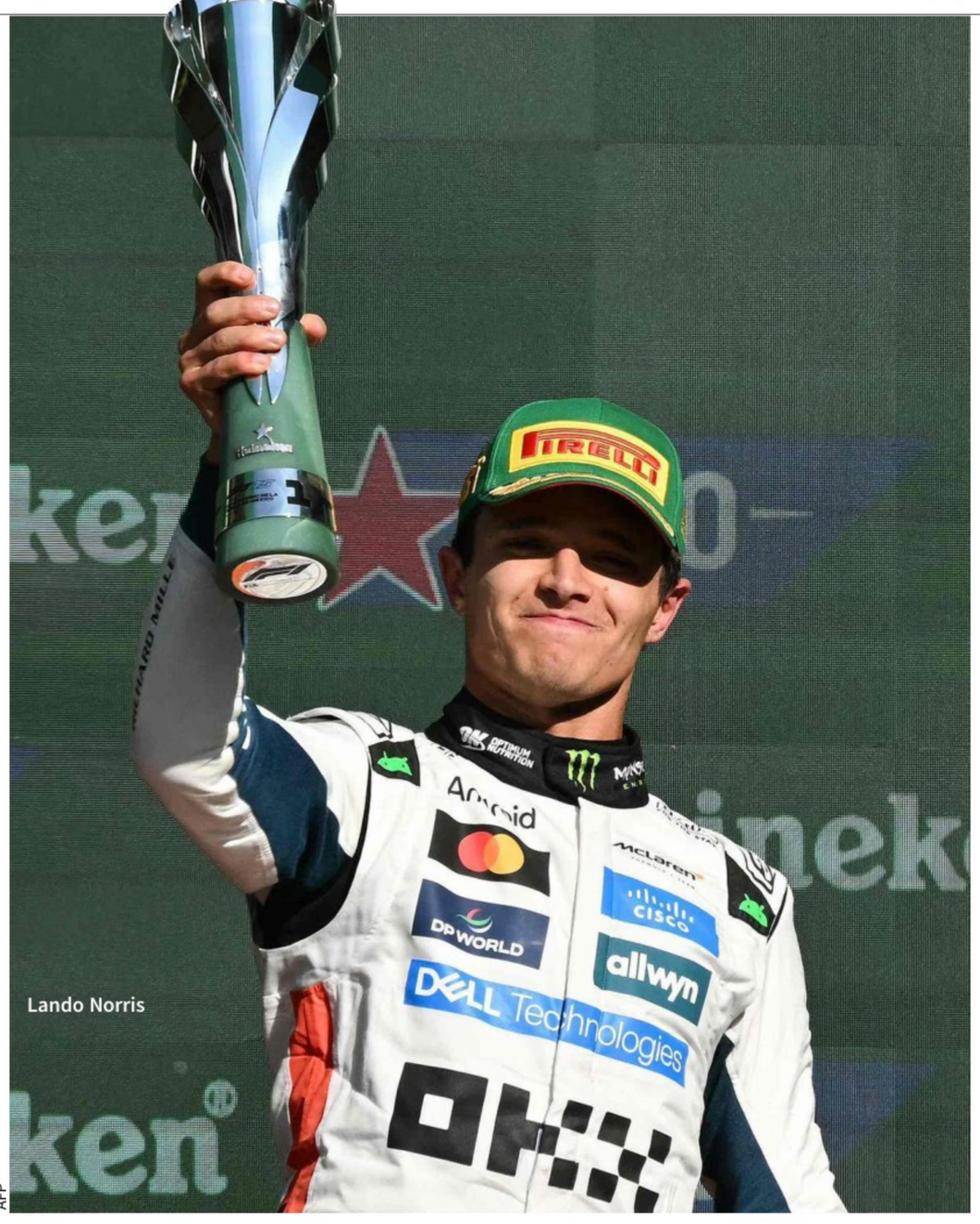
Pointing out that it was the Centre that had the authority to revise the FRP, he argued that the State only had the powers to ensure that the sugar factories adhered to the FRP norms.

"To respond constructively, we request that the Union government should immediately enable a central notification to allow States to fix or endorse a net price to farmers after H&T or mandate that mills absorb H&T so that ₹3,500/tonne net becomes feasible," he said. The letter also sought recalibration of the recovery rate linked calculation of FRP, revision of sugar MSP above ₹31 per kg, export window to relieve mills of unsold stocks, increased ethanol allocation and assured procurement from Karnataka's sugar-based capacity.

Meetings today

Earlier, addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister announced that he would hold separate meetings with representatives of protesting farmers and owners of sugar factories to discuss the demands of farmers as well as issues related to the sugar sector on Friday in Bengaluru.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12



Lando Norris

AFP

Max Verstappen

REUTERS

The thrills and spills continue as title race vrooms towards climax

With four Grands Prix to go, the trio of Norris, Piastri and Verstappen in with a chance to grab the top prize; the 2025 season has seen a shift in fortunes after the summer break; four-time World champion's comeback has ensured that the year which had been underwhelming for two-thirds of the way has sprung back to life

S. Dipak Ragav

The 2025 Formula One season title showdown has hit a crescendo as the bandwagon gets ready for a mad dash four-race sprint over the next month, which gets underway this weekend at Interlagos, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

While McLaren has long since sealed the constructors' title, the drivers' battle is now set to go down to the wire. What started as a two-horse race between the two McLaren drivers - Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri - has completely transformed since the season resumed after the summer break in late August.

It seemed the reigning four-time world champion Max Verstappen would finally be dethroned, and his chances looked bleak post his home race - the Dutch Grand Prix.

It was a pivotal moment in the championship when Piastri won his seventh race of the season on a day when his teammate retired due to engine gremlins, while Verstappen came home second.

At that point, the Australian driver had a 34-point cushion over Norris and was a whopping 104 points ahead of Verstappen.

However, since then, the picture has transformed dramatically as Piastri has undergone one of the most dramatic slumps in form from a driver in a championship fight, allowing his teammate to nose ahead by a point.

More importantly, Verstappen and Red Bull have not stood still, forcing their way back into contention with three wins in the last five races, narrowing the gap with the leader to just 36 points.

With four races left - there are sprint weekends in Brazil and Qatar, too - a total of 116 points are up for grabs, and the championship could go down to the final race in Abu Dhabi next month.

F1 will consider itself lucky that what looked like a slightly underwhelming season for two-thirds of the way has sprung to life, and will keep all the stakeholders interested right till the end.

Irrespective of who wins, the 2025 season has already become one of the most exciting the sport has seen, and there is a compelling narrative arc for the three title protagonists.

Norris' destiny

At the start of the year, the stars were aligned for the British driver. Last year, he had an outside shot at the title, thanks to McLaren vaulting up the pecking order mid-season even as Red Bull lost its competitive edge.

However, Verstappen had built up a massive lead in the first third of the season, the Dutchman's experience and superior racecraft helping him take the chequered flag in seven out of the first 10 races. It proved to be a vital cushion when Norris' charge began from the Miami Grand Prix in May.

At the same time, Norris wasn't clinical and failed to maximise his chances. Crucially, he often came off second-best in his wheel-to-wheel battles with Verstappen. Though there was a path to the title, the McLaren driver wasn't ready for the moment and tightened up a bit when he needed to be inch-perfect.

But the experience of last year was the perfect training ground when Norris had a chance to fight for the crown from round one. When 2025 arrived, he stomped to victory in Australia, and the stars were starting to align.

However, the 2025 McLaren has not been to his liking, and he relinquished his lead by the fifth race to his teammate, who got to grips with the car better and also raised his game by several notches.

The team even introduced a bespoke front suspension from the Canadian GP for Norris to help him get a better feel of the front end of the car. Though he had the rub of the green going in his favour a few times when the team's strategy benefitted him more than his teammate, who was ahead of him, his chances seemed bleak after Zandvoort.

Norris, though, didn't throw in the towel, and a serious meeting with the team after qualifying for the Singapore GP to get what he needed from the car has sparked a sensational turnaround in his fortunes.

In the last two races, Norris has been spectacular, and his victory by more than half a minute in Mexico City showed he was back to his best. He now has momentum and is leading the standings for the first time since April. At least three of the four upcoming races are expected to suit the McLaren, and Norris is now the favourite for the crown.

The 25-year-old has been with McLaren since his debut in 2019 and has played a key role in bringing the team forward from a midfield outfit to two constructors' titles. If he wins, it will be a just reward for his unflinching loyalty to the team during the dark times, even when there were tempting offers from rivals.

Even as Norris has improved in recent races, his ascent to the top has been helped in large part by Piastri's nosedive in form since winning the Dutch GP. Not many expected the 24-year-old to give Norris a run for his money. Piastri finished ninth in his home race, skidding off in the wet from second place and was 23 points behind Norris. But the Melburnian won three out of the following four races to take the lead and held on to it till the previous round in Mexico City.

Piastri improved tremendously in his qualifying compared to last year and won races on tracks where he was significantly slower than Norris in 2024, like China, Spain, and Zandvoort, illustrating the massive strides he has made over the winter.

Tough time

But since winning the Dutch GP, Piastri has been a pale shadow of the driver he was in the first half of the season. It has coincided with McLaren's decision to stop developing its car, allowing Red Bull, Mercedes and Ferrari to catch up.

Though Verstappen is not the odds-on favourite, he has undoubtedly been the best driver this year. If he indeed manages to clinch his fifth consecutive title, this will easily be the best crown of his career

Throughout the year, he has also been at the receiving end of strategies that seemed to favour his teammate, prompting fans to spin conspiracy theories that the team is favouring Norris.

But for the large part, Piastri's current position is primarily of his own doing. Worryingly, he has been error-prone, something we rarely saw in the early part of the year. In the first half, he was the epitome of consistency, even winning on weekends when he didn't have outright pace but was more clinical, making fewer errors.

His Baku weekend, where he crashed in qualifying, then jumped the start and crashed out of the race on the opening lap, was a shocker. And things have gotten worse since then. The last two rounds in the USA and Mexico City saw Piastri qualify sixth and seventh and finish fifth on both occasions, giving up the championship lead to Norris.

The team identified that Piastri still needs to improve his driving style on low-grip circuits. The fact that he also triggered a crash in the Sprint race in Austin that also took out his teammate did not help matters.

Though he has shown great ability to come back strongly after setbacks, whether he can do so again with just four races to go and the title on the line remains to be seen. One silver lining was that he made a breakthrough in adjusting his driving style during the race in Mexico after qualifying. With that confidence, if Piastri does get out of the rut and triumphs in the end, it would be a tremendous achievement for someone to clinch the crown in only his third year. For now, the momentum has shifted decisively away from him, and Piastri has only himself to blame if he ends up falling short.

Phoenix rises

Even as the McLaren drivers squabble among themselves, Verstappen has shown yet again why he is the best driver on the grid and is a cut above the rest. What separates the legends from the outstanding athletes is the ability to overcome adversity and prevail in the end, and the way Verstappen has shown that he should never be counted out until it is mathematically impossible.

Since the summer break, the 28-year-old has scored the most points (119) with opportunistic victories in Monza, Baku and Austin, finishing second and third in Singapore and Mexico City, steadily chipping away at the gap to the leader.

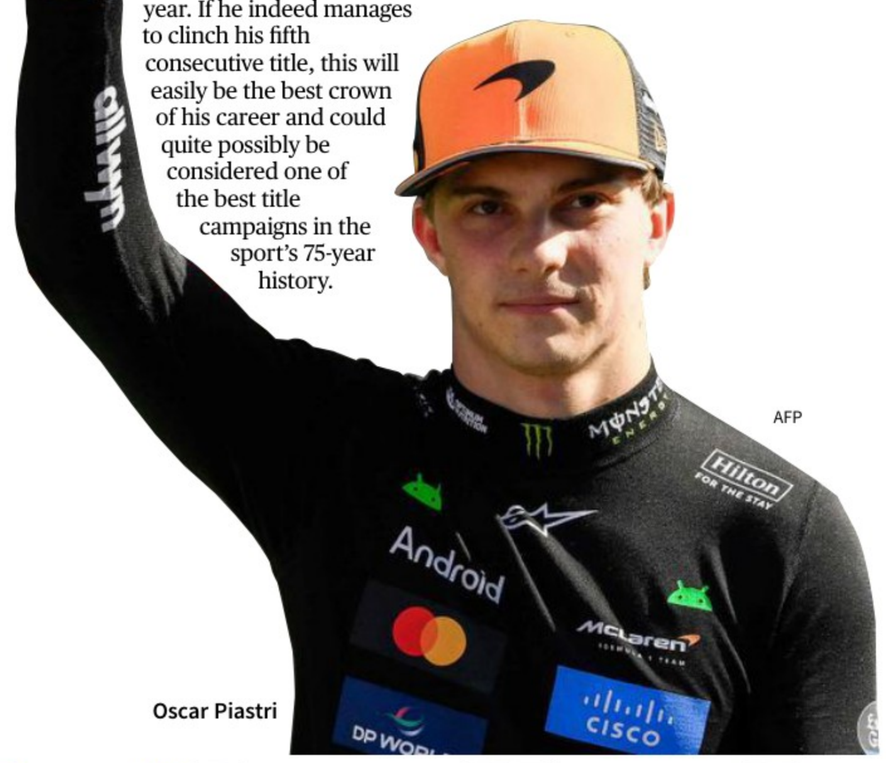
It is also a credit to the team that it has thrown all its resources into developing this year's car, even if it compromises next year's development amid massive regulatory changes. The upgrades, coupled with a different engineering approach, have allowed Verstappen to set up the vehicle aggressively, one he can handle and extract maximum performance from.

Even though he has done his best to maximise results, he needed some help from the McLaren drivers, and they have obliged. The quirk of F1 is that teammates are anything but that, and by fighting amongst themselves, they can often open the door for someone to steal the prize right under their noses.

As long as Norris and Piastri take points away from each other, it simplifies the math for Verstappen if he beats one or even both drivers. And it won't even be the first time such a thing has happened in F1.

In 2007, McLaren drivers Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso's epic rivalry allowed Kimi Raikkonen to steal his only driver's title by one point. In 1986, the Williams duo of Nigel Mansell and Nelson Piquet opened the door for McLaren's Alain Prost to his second world title, pipping Mansell by two points and Piquet by three.

Though Verstappen is not the odds-on favourite, still trailing by 35 points, he has undoubtedly been the best driver this year. If he indeed manages to clinch his fifth consecutive title, this will easily be the best crown of his career and could quite possibly be considered one of the best title campaigns in the sport's 75-year history.



Oscar Piastri

AFP

THE GIST

- What started as a two-horse race between the two McLaren drivers – Norris and Piastri – has completely transformed since the season resumed after the summer break in late August
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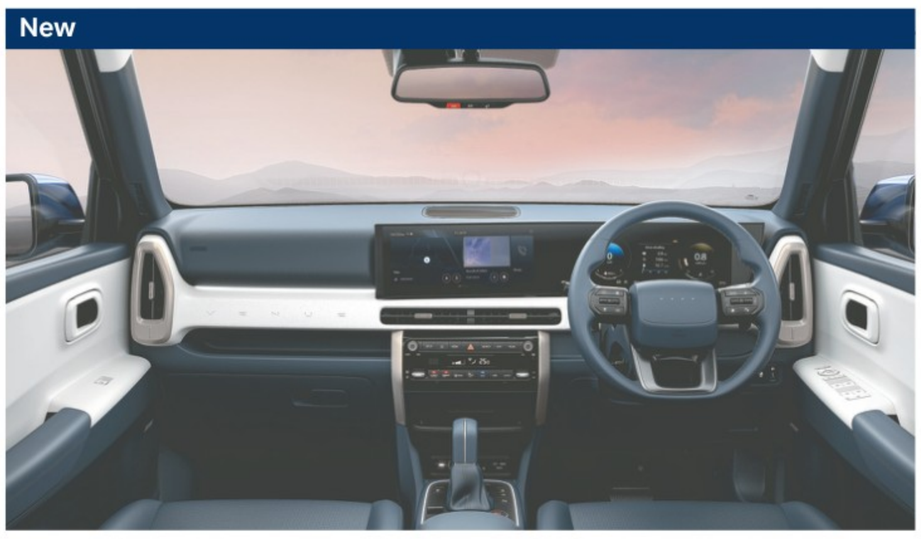
New



Dual tone (Dark navy & dove grey) interior theme with terrazzo-textured crashpad finish

Dark chrome radiator grille
Quad beam LED headlamps

Spacious cabin – More head room, shoulder room and knee room

New

Front row ventilated seats

New

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New

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INNOCEAN-055/25

Deaths due to pancreatic, breast cancers to rise by 2030: Study

It projects the future burden of 23 major cancer types and finds a decrease in infection and tobacco-related cancers

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A recent disease-forecasting study, which analysed data from the Global Cancer Observatory (GCO), has indicated a rise in cancers linked to lifestyle and metabolic factors and a decline in infection-related and tobacco-related cancers in India.

The study, projecting the future burden of 23 major cancer types up to the year 2030, has been published in the *BMJ Open* this week. Calculated by forecasting age-standardised mortality rates (ASMR), the study found an ongoing epidemiological transition that is a clear shift towards cancers associated with lifestyle and economic development.

The ASMR is a way to fairly compare death rates between populations that have different age structures. The authors used an autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model to forecast ASMR for 23 major cancer types until 2030, using aggregated, national-level cancer mortality data for the Indian population from 2000 to 2019. Led by researchers and oncologists from MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, Bengaluru; Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Kochi; Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai, and Department of Statistics, Assam University, Silchar - the study revealed that among males, mortality rates due to colorectal cancer and pancreatic cancer are expected to increase by 6.55% and 9.59%, respectively, from 2025 to 2030.

The study has found an ongoing epidemiological transition that is a clear shift towards cancers associated with lifestyle and economic development. GETTY IMAGES

Among females, breast cancer is expected to have the highest increase from 2025 to 2030, followed by lung, colorectal cancer, pancreas, ovary, kidney, and lymphomas.

Cancers that will dip

However, among both genders, mouth and oropharynx cancers and urinary bladder cancer mortality are projected to decrease between 2000 and 2030, attributed to the reduction in tobacco use and household air pollution, said Denny John from MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, who is the lead author of the study.

"The study provides the first comprehensive, long-range forecast of age-standardised mortality rates for 23 cancer types in India using a robust time-series approach. We used an autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model that has a greater ability for prediction and applicability for cancer forecasting in the country," Dr. John told *The Hindu*.

"The ASMR of 23 major cancer types was selected for forecasting cancer mortality as this metric takes into account changes in the population's age structure over time, enabling a more accurate comparison of mortality risk across different periods, regardless of the impact of population ageing. Projections of cancer mortality would be helpful for clinicians, researchers, healthcare administrators, and policymakers in planning facilities, equipment, and staffing allocation in the country," he said.

Primary prevention

Highlighting the public health implications of the study, K. Pavithran, professor and head, department of medical oncology at Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences and Research Centre, Kochi, said it underscores the importance of strengthening primary prevention and early detection strategies, especially for cancers that show steeply increasing projections, such as breast and colorectal cancer.

"Improving early detection through expanded screening programmes, such as mammography and colonoscopy, and improving diagnostic infrastructure in rural and underserved regions are essential," the professor said.

State-specific prediction

Narassima M.S., assistant professor at Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai, said that since the analysis is based on national-level estimates from the Global Cancer Observatory, this may mask significant subnational and regional heterogeneity in cancer patterns across States,an area that also needs to be focused on for better allocation of resources depending on region-specific patterns.

The authors emphasise the need for future research using State-specific predictions, to facilitate the development of tailored interventions at the regional level.

'Waste-to-Energy plant in Bidadi generates 11.5 MW of electricity a day'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Waste-to-Energy plant in Bidadi is capable of generating power for nearly one lakh households in the city if source segregation of waste is effectively implemented, said Karee Gowda, Chief Executive Officer of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML).

The plant was established at a cost of ₹314.74 crore by the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike and the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL).

"The plant generates 11.5 MW of electricity a day. Considering that each household consumes an average of five units of power a day, the plant can supply electricity to approximately 25,000 homes," said Mr. Gowda. Bengaluru generates around 6,000 tonnes of waste every day, of which an estimated 35% is plastic. Recyclable plastic is reused through the Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCCs), while low-grade plastic waste is sent to the Bidadi plant for processing. At present, about 400 tonnes of refuse-derived fuel (RDF), comprising segregated legacy waste from Mandur and material from dry waste collection centres, are being supplied daily, along with 200 tonnes of household-segregated dry or plastic waste.

The BSWML aims to increase the supply of segregated dry waste from households to 500 tonnes a day by the end of November. K. MURALI KUMAR

Officials have urged citizens to segregate wet and dry waste at home and hand them over separately to auto-tippers during collection

The BSWML aims to increase the supply of segregated dry waste from households to 500 tonnes a day by the end of November. "Earlier, most of the city's mixed waste was sent directly to landfills. Now, with mandatory source segregation at the household level, the RDF is being separated and sent to the Bidadi plant," Mr. Gowda said, adding that as a result the number of compactors transporting waste to landfills has reduced from 390 to 340 over the past month.

Officials have urged citizens to segregate wet and dry waste at home and hand them over separately to auto-tippers during collection. This practice greatly contributes to the success of waste-to-energy initiatives.

Since the plant became operational in June 2024, it has processed 1,68,036 tonnes of waste and generated 54.29 million units of electricity, according to a KPCL official.

BTP conduct citywide awareness drive on road safety

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Traffic Police on Thursday organised an awareness drive across multiple police station limits to promote road safety and compliance with traffic regulations.

At K.G. Halli and Mahadevapura, the officers educated two-wheeler riders on the importance of wearing ISI-marked full helmets and adhering to traffic norms. Similar initiatives were held under the limits at key junctions, including Tin Factory, K.R. Puram Metro Station, Hoodi, and Hope Farm.

At all locations, the officers interacted with motorists and autorickshaw drivers, highlighting the significance of following traffic rules such as maintaining lane discipline, stopping behind the stop line, and wearing uniforms for autorickshaw drivers. They also explained the consequences of violations and encouraged responsible behaviour on the roads. In addition, students from WOW Kids Chiguru Preschool, Gottigere, visited the Hulimavu Traffic Police Station, where they learned about basic traffic rules, the meaning of signal lights, and safe road-crossing practices. Likewise, the officers from the Adugodi Traffic Police Station conducted a session at PNS School, spreading awareness among schoolchildren.

A senior police officer told *The Hindu* that the drive was aimed at fostering a culture of safety among all categories of road users, from motorists to school students. The Bengaluru City Traffic Police said such initiatives would continue across the city in the coming days to ensure better compliance and safer roads.

Minister conducts surprise inspection

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday paid a surprise visit to the Kempegowda Bus Station after receiving complaints from passengers about flooding and uneven parking areas that were affecting the smooth movement of vehicles during rains.

Uneven

Passengers had complained to the Minister that the surface in the parking zone was uneven, causing rainwater to stagnate and cause inconvenience to both drivers and commuters. Responding to them, Mr. Reddy directed officials to take up levelling and repair works to ensure hassle-free movement of buses.

During the inspection, the Minister reviewed the progress of ongoing works and instructed officials to complete them in the first phase.

Autorickshaw and cab drivers' screen addiction raise alarm over road safety in Bengaluru

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Commuters in Bengaluru are raising concern over the increasing instances of autorickshaw and cab drivers using their mobile phones to watch videos, movies, or even reels while ferrying passengers.

Passengers said that many drivers were seen operating their vehicles and using their mobile phones simultaneously, with their concentration getting distracted between the road and the screen.

"When passengers question them, they quickly switch to maps and claim they are using it only for directions," said Jairaj M., a regular commuter from Peenya. "I have had multiple experiences where drivers were watching videos while driving. Some were scrolling through reels or YouTube. When I told them it was unsafe, they opened maps and said they were using it for navigation. It feels very unsafe sitting behind someone who is barely looking at the road," he added.

The Bengaluru Traffic Police officials say that they are conducting special drives to penalise drivers who watch videos on their mobile phones while driving. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The concern is not limited to auto and cab passengers. Shailesh Kumar, a frequent bike taxi user from Whitefield, recalled a recent incident: "A few days ago, my bike taxi rider was watching YouTube while riding. He kept applying sudden brakes and even shouted at other bikers. It was terrifying. This is a very dangerous trend. The police must book strict cases against such people. They are putting not only their passengers' lives at risk, but also of others on the road. ."

Crackdown

Acknowledging the growing problem, Bengaluru Traffic Police officials said that they are conducting special drives to penalise offenders. "Earlier, drivers used phones for calls or navigation. But now, we find many people watching movies or live streams even while driving passengers. This is extremely dangerous. We have been booking cases through special enforcement drives and penalising them," an official said.

According to police data, 34,303 cases were registered between January and September 2025 against motorists for using mobile phones while driving.

T.M. Rudramurthy, general secretary of the ARDU in Bengaluru, said, "We are aware that a few drivers are misusing mobile phones while on duty, but it is wrong to label all drivers as irresponsible. Many of us rely on apps for bookings and maps for navigation. Still, we are creating awareness in our groups about the risks of distracted driving. We constantly advise members not to use phones for entertainment when passengers are on board."

None of the aggregators responded to mails seeking a response.

Transport expert M.N. Srihari said that despite existing penalties, weak enforcement has allowed the trend to grow. "Watching videos while driving is not just irresponsible, it's a form of deliberate negligence that endangers lives. The authorities must treat this as seriously as drunken driving," he said.

Mr. Srihari further said that people must report such incidents through social media platforms or directly to the traffic police.

Complaints by passengers

- Autorickshaw and cab drivers are increasingly watching videos while driving.
- Drivers watch YouTube, reels, and movies during trips.
- Some use split screens-Google Maps in a corner and videos playing alongside.
- Many drivers dismiss concerns by claiming they are 'only using maps'.
- 34,303 cases booked between January and September 2025 for use of mobile phone while driving.

'Use of herbal agarbathis in India on the rise'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's agarbathi industry, pegged at close to ₹10,000 crore, has been witnessing an uptick in the use of herbal (natural) incense sticks, said Ambica Ramanjaneyulu, president of the All India Agarbathi Manufacturers' Association (AIAMA).

Mr. Ramanjaneyulu, who is also the managing director of Ambica Group of Companies, told *The Hindu*, "Currently herbal agarbathis accounted for 10% to 15% of the entire sticks produced in the country, and this segment is seeing growth with more number of people, in India and globally, are moving towards herbal agarbathis." He said that over 70 herbs, spices and plants grown in forests are used in herbal agarbathi manufacturing. "Majority of these raw materials are available in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Tripura, Assam, etc. while some herbs and forest items, including all kinds of resins and cinnamon and star anise, are imported from Indonesia and lavender and patchouli comes from various parts of Europe." India produces 15,000 tonnes of agarbathis every month, which means 15 billion sticks are burnt every month in the domestic and exports market.

Visitors checking the fragrance of agarbathis during the AIAMA EXPO 2025 in Bengaluru on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

BIS certification

Earlier, Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, unveiled the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Certification for the country's incense manufacturing sector.

"With the introduction of BIS certification, we are ensuring that Indian incense products meet the highest global quality standards," she said while inaugurating the industry's annual exposition, AIAMA EXPO 2025, in the city on Thursday.

"The expo showcases how the agarbathi industry is evolving by combining traditional artistry with modern business practices," said Arjun Ranga, chairman, AIAMA EXPO Committee 2025, and managing director, Cycle Pure Agarbathi.

Soon, citizens can be a traffic police personnel for a day

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

If all goes as per the plan of the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), citizens will be able to experience a day in the life of a traffic police personnel. The BTP is planning to launch a 'citizen cop for a day' initiative to provide real-time experience in managing peak-hour traffic and to gather suggestions for improving traffic regulation.

The initiative has two main objectives: to educate more people about traffic management – encouraging wider discussions and awareness, and to gather fresh ideas for improving traffic management in the city. Under the programme, citizens will be selected by the police after reviewing applications. The criteria are yet to be finalised. The selected individuals will receive training from on-ground traffic personnel during peak hours for a day. After a day of training, the citizen will be deployed to manage traffic during peak hours for another day. "We will accommodate as many applications as possible, depending on factors like the number of selected junctions and total applications. Selected citizens can choose the date and junction where they want to manage traffic after the formal launch of the initiative," a senior police officer from the BTP told *The Hindu*. While the blueprint for the initiative has been prepared, details such as the junctions, selection process, eligibility criteria, and schedule of implementation are yet to be finalised.

The senior officer added that the initiative is crucial in bridging the existing gap between police officers and citizens, helping to dispel the stigma of 'strictness' often associated with the police.

"One of the reasons police are often villainised is that many people are unfamiliar with our work and the conditions under which we operate," the officer said. "This initiative will give citizens a closer look at our profession, which is beneficial in two ways – by increasing self-awareness about following traffic rules and by helping spread that awareness," he added.

The BTP also believes that when a citizen is deployed at a junction, he or she can offer a fresh perspective on solving underlying issues that police officers might have overlooked, as officers are often conditioned to view problems from a fixed standpoint.

Karnataka's menstrual leave policy: progressive step or symbolic gesture?

While the move has received appreciation, it has also sparked a debate on whether a single day is sufficient and if it will achieve its intended purpose; doctors say that it could make a big difference for women living with painful periods or other conditions, but add that focus should be on helping women manage menstrual discomfort effectively

Afshan Yasmeen

Karnataka has become the first State in the country to approve one day of paid menstrual leave per month for all women employees, covering both government and private sectors. Odisha and Bihar have similar policies for government employees, while Kerala has implemented this in universities.

Cleared recently by the Karnataka Cabinet, the policy is being hailed as a progressive measure recognising menstrual health as a legitimate workplace concern. The leave, amounting to 12 days a year, applies to women in government offices, educational institutions, factories, and private organisations. While the move has received widespread appreciation, it has sparked debate on whether a single day of leave is sufficient and whether it will achieve its intended purpose.

How it came about

Describing the decision as a "momentous occasion," Sapna S., associate dean and head, school of law, Christ (Deemed-to-be) University, said it marks a progressive step towards gender equity and aligns with the principles of affirmative action enshrined in the Constitution.

Dr. Sapna, who chaired the 18-member committee that drafted the policy, said it resulted from extensive consultations and comparative studies. "We reviewed global practices from countries such as Finland and Japan. The committee included gynaecologists, psychiatrists, professors, employers, employees, NGOs, and trade unions. Though there were suggestions to reduce the leave to half a day or change the name, our persistence paid off, and the government approved 12 days, aligning with our original proposal," she said.

On concerns of misuse, she said that a sub-committee will frame implementation guidelines for the policy. "Misuse can occur with any law. But accommodating menstrual leave can boost productivity and employee well-being in the long run." She also emphasised the need for sensitisation programmes to prevent stigma or discrimination, adding, "Female-intensive workplaces should have these provisions intact, as they reflect the true spirit of gender equity."

Citing global research, Dr. Sapna said menstrual pain was a serious health concern. "A 2018 *Quartz* article quoted John Guillebaud, a reproductive health professor at University College London, as saying patients described menstrual cramps as 'almost as bad as having a heart attack.' That itself underscores the need for understanding and supportive policies," she noted.

Gynaecologists note that menstrual experiences vary widely, from mild discomfort to debilitating pain. Some women may experience fatigue, mood swings, migraines, or heavy bleeding, while others may have minimal symptoms.

Seeking change: Students staging a protest demanding 12 menstrual leaves per semester for female students in Delhi University. ANI

Hema Divakar, division director at Well Women Healthcare, International Federation of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), said conditions such as adenomyosis, endometriosis, fibroids, or hormonal imbalances can cause severe pain or heavy bleeding and require medical treatment. "Instead of blindly asking for a day's leave, girls and women should undergo a wellness check to identify and address root causes. Many of these issues can be fixed," she said.

While welcoming the policy, she cautioned that menstrual leave may be more symbolic than practical. "Menstruation is a recurring physiological process affecting each woman differently. Pregnancy leave allows the mother's body to recover and facilitates bonding with the newborn. Granting a one-day leave for menstruation may not make much sense," she said. She also warned that mandatory menstrual leave could inadvertently reinforce workplace bias. "From an employer's perspective, there may be hesitation in assigning women critical roles or leadership responsibilities if they are perceived as taking frequent leave. This could deepen gender inequity," she noted.

> A 2018 *Quartz* article quoted John Guillebaud, a reproductive health professor at University College London, as saying patients described menstrual cramps as 'almost as bad as having a heart attack.' That itself underscores the need for understanding and supportive policies
>
> **DR. SAPNA**
> Head of committee that drafted the policy

Stating that menstruation was no longer a "hush-hush" subject thanks to greater awareness through education and social media, Dr. Divakar said: "Prevent illness, promote wellness should be the mantra. The focus should be on helping women manage menstrual discomfort effectively rather than offering a symbolic one-day off."

Suhasini Inamdar, senior consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Motherhood Hospitals, Bengaluru, said menstrual leave was a woman's right. "In ancient times, women took four days off from household work purely for rest, to preserve physical and emotional well-being, not as a sign of impurity. The original intent has been lost over time," she said.

Calling the policy a "welcome and much-needed step," Dr. Inamdar said it recognises menstrual health as integral to overall well-being. Severe menstrual pain, or dysmenorrhea, affects women of all ages, particularly younger women or those with gynaecological conditions. Stress, lack of exercise, and poor sleep can further aggravate symptoms. Persistent pain should be medically evaluated rather than dismissed as normal, Dr. Inamdar said.

For mild to moderate discomfort, simple measures such as hot compresses, hydration, light exercise, and rest can help. Over-the-counter pain relief may also be used. For severe or recurrent pain, consultation with a gynaecologist is essential. "Conditions such as endometriosis or fibroids require targeted treatment, which could include hormonal therapy or lifestyle adjustments," Dr. Inamdar noted.

Need for awareness

For women living with painful periods or conditions such as endometriosis, adenomyosis, fibroids, or PCOS, menstrual leave can make a significant difference, said Sunitha Mahesh, medical director and senior consultant gynaecologist at Milann Birthing Hospital, Bengaluru.

"These conditions can cause severe cramps, heavy bleeding, and exhaustion, making it difficult to get through daily life. Having the option to take a day off allows women to rest without using their regular sick leave," Dr. Mahesh said. However, she emphasised that severe or unusually heavy periods should not be dismissed as normal.

"It's important to consult a gynaecologist to identify the underlying cause and receive appropriate treatment – whether through medication, a procedure, or lifestyle changes – to make future cycles easier to manage," she said.

Dr. Mahesh highlighted the need for greater awareness among women, noting that many assume intense pain or heavy bleeding is normal and therefore delay seeking medical help.

While menstrual leave can offer temporary relief, Dr. Mahesh underlined that addressing the root cause is key for long-term well-being. She also called for workplace policies that are flexible, optional, and free from stigma. "Every woman's cycle is different, and symptoms can vary widely. Policies should be sensitive, and no one should feel pressured to disclose personal details or fear that taking leave will affect their performance," she said.

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THE GIST

- Karnataka has become the first State in the country to approve one day of paid menstrual leave per month for all women employees. The leave applies to women in government offices, educational institutions, factories, and private organisations
- Citing global research, doctors say that menstrual pain was a serious health concern and that the policy recognises menstrual health as integral to overall well-being. Some experts warn that the leave could inadvertently reinforce workplace bias
- Doctors call for workplace policies that are flexible, optional, and free from stigma. Policies should be sensitive, and no one should feel pressured to disclose personal details or fear that taking leave will affect their performance, they say

Lack of skilled support adding to rising maternal deaths in Afghanistan

Divya Gandhi

Afghan women are giving birth without skilled support, and maternal deaths, which could have been prevented, are on the rise, says a correspondence by three clinicians in the latest edition of *The Lancet*, which also explains the cause.

"Afghanistan today faces a maternal health crisis that is as much political as it is medical. When girls are banned from studying beyond grade 6, nursing and midwifery schools are shuttered, and female health workers are restricted in their ability to work, the results are tragically predictable."

Shutting down female education and employment in healthcare is a decision with "fatal consequences" in Afghanistan, "where cultural norms already restrict women from being treated by male doctors," say the authors, who include, Amina Nasari, CUNY School of Medicine, New York. The inaccessibility to emergency obstetric care could lead to fatal haemorrhages, eclampsia, sepsis, and obstructed labour.

Fragile health system

In 2024, the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan estimated that 17.9 million people in Afghanistan required health assistance that year; the country has "a fragile and under-resourced healthcare system, fraught by unequal access to services, ongoing communicable disease breaks, critical unmet maternal and child health needs, high rates of malnutrition, and significant morbidity and mortality rates as result", says a United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) report.

It adds that UNICEF has reported Afghanistan "having one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates with 638 mothers dying for every 100,000 births, exacerbated by acute shortages of qualified birth attendants in the country."

Reeling under impact: The bans on women's work and education, specifically in midwifery and nursing, must be lifted, says a new *Lancet* correspondence. AP

Alleviating a crisis

These are the four strategies offered by latest *Lancet* correspondence to overcome the maternal health crisis

- Lift the bans on women's work and education
- Female health workforce must be protected and expanded
- Donors must make women-only services non-negotiable
- Data must drive decision making. Numbers will help target resources

Minimal ante-natal care

There is much to be done for antenatal care too in Afghanistan. For instance, no more than 6.2% of women received good-quality antenatal care, according to a paper published in *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* in January 2025.

The Lancet correspondence references the 2022-23 Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, which found that only 36·3% of mothers received a postnatal check within two days of delivery. "In December, 2024, Afghanistan's authorities banned women from higher education in health sciences, including nursing and midwifery. This decision cut off one of the last viable pathways to train skilled female providers who are essential to maternal and newborn survival," say the authors: clinics have closed; female-only outreach teams suspended; and humanitarian agencies have stopped maternal and newborn services when barred from deploying female staff.

> **Afghanistan has one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates with 638 mothers dying for every 100,000 births, according to the UNICEF**

Earlier this year, another correspondence in *The Lancet*, the authors, including Prof.Nasari, said that according to UNICEF, the ban on secondary education for girls alone cost the Afghan economy at least $500 million in 2022.

"Allowing the 3 million girls from that year's cohort to complete secondary education could have contributed $5·4 billion to the economy. The decision also undermines an already fragile health-care system by blocking one of the few remaining paths for women to contribute to health care."

Four strategies

The latest correspondence offers four strategies to overcome these attacks on maternal health: First, lift the bans on women's work and education, specifically midwifery and nursing; second, "the existing female health workforce must be protected and expanded and midwifery schools should be reopened without delay"; third, "donors must make women-only services non-negotiable." And fourth, "data must drive decision making... Numbers, not anecdotes, will strengthen advocacy and help target resources."

The lack of health-care access "translates to a surge in home births without the presence of trained professionals, no access to emergency interventions when complications arise, and a tragic increase in preventable maternal and neonatal deaths," says the *Lancet* correspondence.

And now, Afghan women have lost "their last hope" as Taliban has shut down Internet, says a *BBC* report from September.

"As clinicians, we must be clear: restricting female health workers is not tradition. It is a policy with a measurable death toll... let Afghan women train, work, and lead in health care and beyond. The health of mothers, the survival of newborns, and the wellbeing of entire communities depend on it... This is not just a health-care issue; it is a human rights crisis," the authors conclude.

(divya.gandhi@thehindu.co.in)

Techie held for sending hoax mail to schools to implicate her male friend

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The North Division Cyber Crime Police have cracked a series of hoax email cases reported in the city with the arrest of a 30-year-old software engineer, who allegedly misused her technical expertise to hack into her male friend's email account and implicate him in false cases as an alleged act of revenge.

The accused, identified as Rene Joshilda, a resident of Airport Road, Chennai, in Tamil Nadu, was traced to the Ahmedabad prison, where she is currently lodged in connection with a similar offence.

According to B.S. Nemagoud, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) (North Division), who supervised the investigation,

Investigations revealed that while working in Bengaluru, the accused had developed a relationship with a techie. Following their breakup, she allegedly decided to take revenge and frame him in a criminal case. FILE PHOTO

Rene holds a B.E. in electrical engineering and previously worked at a Bengaluru-based private company. She had been found involved in seven cases in Bengaluru, one in Gujarat, and one in Tamil Nadu.

Investigations revealed that while working in Bengaluru, Rene had reportedly developed a relationship with a techie. Following their breakup, she allegedly decided to take revenge and frame him in a criminal case.

Using her technical skills, she created multiple virtual identities through VPN services and the Gatecode app, availed virtual mobile numbers, and operated from seven fake email accounts. She allegedly hacked into his email IDs and sent hoax emails to several schools across Bengaluru, causing alarm and prompting police action.

The police began their probe based on a complaint filed by a public school in Kalasipalya on June 14 after receiving one such threatening email. The investigation team traced the origin of the messages through digital forensics, leading them to the accused.

Rene was brought to Bengaluru on a body warrant for further questioning and investigation.

Electrician found dead after killing minor daughter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Passers-by found Lokesh dead near an abandoned car, in which his daughter, Niharika, was also found dead. They alerted the police

A 37-year-old electrician allegedly strangled his five-year-old daughter to death before ending his life on the outskirts of Mulbagal on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Lokesh, a resident of Mudiyanuru village in Mulbagal.

Probe revealed that Lokesh's wife allegedly had an affair and was missing from home for the past few days. Dejected over this, Lokesh decided to take this extreme step, a police officer said.

Passers-by found Lokesh dead near an abandoned car, in which his daughter, Niharika, was also found dead. They then alerted the police.

The Mulbagal rural police have registered a case. The bodies have been shifted for a post-mortem procedure.

(Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani ph: 104 for help.)

Contractor booked for threatening Bescom officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police have registered an FIR against a city-based electric contractor for allegedly threatening Bescom officials to extort money.

Based on the complaint filed by contractor John Benedict, who has also filed a complaint with Lokayukta, the police charged the accused, identified as Sharanappa Kuribanalla, under Section 308 (extortion) of the BNS on Wednesday.

According to the complaint, Sharanappa, claiming to be a social activist and anti-corruption crusader, accessed the audio and video conversation between Bescom officials and contractors. Using this, he allegedly started blackmailing the officials, demanding money and threatening to file a case.

Man and woman rob home alone woman in Anekal on the pretext of giving wedding invitation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A man and a woman, posing as distant relatives, visited the house of a home alone woman on the pretext of giving a marriage invitation, allegedly tied up the resident, ransacked the house and decamped with valuables worth around ₹15 lakh, at Neraluru on Hosur Main Road, on the outskirts of the city, on Wednesday.

The victim, identified as Nagaveni, was alone at home when a woman arrived at her doorstep claiming to be a distant relative, and said she had come to invite her to a wedding. An unsuspecting Nagaveni welcomed her inside and offered to fetch a glass of water.

Taking advantage of the moment, another accomplice, a man, entered the house and bolted the door from inside. The duo then threatened Nagaveni at knifepoint, dragged her into a room, and tied her hands and legs before demanding she reveal where the valuables were kept.

The Attibele police have registered a case and launched a search to track down the suspects

Fearing harm, Nagaveni disclosed where the keys to the almirah were kept. The culprits looted about 200 gm of gold and silver ornaments and fled from the spot after locking the door from outside. After managing to free herself, Nagaveni raised an alarm, alerting her neighbours, and later called her husband, Ravi Kumar, who had been at work during the incident.

The Attibele police have registered a case and launched a search to track down the suspects. The police suspected that the woman who posed as a relative may have conducted a recce of the house before executing the plan.

The police have gathered CCTV camera footage from in and around the area.

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Notification No. 2025-26/001

PhD Admission Notification

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the admission to **PhD programmes offered in the Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering, Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Computer Applications, Management studies** for the Winter semester 2025-26.

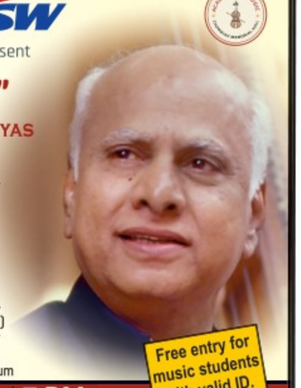
Last date for submission of application **15th Nov. 2025. Application fees of Rs. 1000 to be paid through NEFT / RTGS to Ac. No. 10977111000317, IFSC : PKGB0010977, Branch: Allipura, Ballari.**

For PhD Application, eligibility criteria & other details visit our website.
www.kishkindauniversity.edu.in
For queries Email: **deanri@kishkindauniversity.edu.in**

Sd /- Registrar
Kishkinda University, Ballari

SRI. K. K. MURTHY MEMORIAL MUSIC FESTIVAL - 2025
On the eve of 101st birth anniversary of legendary vocalist Padmabhushan Pandit C.R. Vyas

॥ पंचम निषाद ॥
JSW present
"सुरनमें रस तुम हो"
BANDISHES OF PANDIT C.R. VYAS
Content Narrator : Shashi Vyas
Select bandishes presented by
Suresh Bapat
Anuja Zokarkar
Noopur Gadgil
Kedar Kelkar
Students of Suresh Bapat (Chorus)
Co-artistes : Ravindra Yavagal - Tabla
Vyas Murthy Katti - Harmonium



Free entry for music students with valid ID.

Saturday 8 November 2025 | 7 PM
CHOWDIAH MEMORIAL HALL, Malleswaram, Bengaluru
Tickets available on bookmyshow (Few Seats Reserved) WhatsApp : 70455 97505

SRM UNIVERSITY
DELHI-NCR, SONEPAT
NAAC ACCREDITED A+ GRADE

Third Convocation 2025

7TH NOVEMBER 2025 | FRIDAY, 10:00 AM

SRM UNIVERSITY DELHI-NCR, SONEPAT
39, RAJIV GANDHI EDUCATION CITY,
DELHI-NCR, SONEPAT

SHRI C. P. RADHAKRISHNAN
HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF INDIA
CHIEF GUEST

PROF. ASHIM KUMAR GHOSH
HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF HARYANA AND
VISITOR OF SRM UNIVERSITY, DELHI-NCR, SONEPAT

+91-9541779883 WWW.SRMUNIVERSITY.AC.IN

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Indians flown home after fleeing Myanmar cyber scam centre

270 India has repatriated 270 citizens from Thailand after they fled from a cyber scam centre in Myanmar's Myawaddy following a police crackdown. The group, including 26 women, was brought back on two Indian Air Force aircraft from the Thai town of Mae Sot. PTI

Net profit reported by NHPC for the September quarter

1,219 In ₹ crore. The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1219.28 crore for the September quarter, marking a nearly 15% increase from ₹1060.34 crore a year earlier. PTI

Children rescued by railway police during protection drive

25 The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Eastern Railway rescued 25 children from various stations under its jurisdiction, officials said on Thursday. The minors were found at the Howrah, Lalgola, and Jasidih stations, with 22 of them travelling in the Jasidih-Tambaram Express. PTI

Projected value of the recycling market due to solar power by 2047

3,700 In ₹ crore. According to new studies by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, recovering materials like silicon, copper, and aluminium from discarded solar panels could supply 38% of the industry's raw materials. ANI

Emergency calls handled by Delhi Fire Service over 15 years

4 In lakh. The Delhi Fire Service has handled over four lakh emergency calls in the past 15 years, with 6,611 lives lost in incidents including fires, collapses, and road accidents. Data from 2009-2024 shows a sharp rise in fatalities, reaching 1,303 deaths in 2023-24. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why the nomination process needs reform

The Representation of the People Act (RP), 1951 mandates that only qualified candidates can contest an election. However, the process of verifying said qualifications has accumulated complexity over the years, with too much importance being laid on procedural technicalities than actual 'defects of a substantial character'

LETTER & SPIRIT

Kannan Gopinathan

A young woman from Dadra and Nagar Haveli called last week about the recent municipal council elections. This is a district in which I once served as Collector and Returning Officer. Her father's nomination for municipal councillor had been rejected with no hearing or chance at verification. She asked, "Sir, is this how elections work?" The honest answer is yes. And that is the problem.

One often hears about how nominations of candidates contesting elections are rejected over technicalities without any chance for clarification. However, the fact of that matter is that such rejections are lawful. The most undemocratic part of India's electoral process occurs before a single vote is cast – at the stage of nomination scrutiny.

The politics of procedure

India's electoral nomination process vests extraordinary discretion in a single official – the Returning Officer (RO). The Representation of the People Act (RP), 1951, particularly Sections 33 to 36, and the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, govern the nomination process. Section 36 authorises the RO to scrutinise nominations and reject those deemed invalid. The RO's power under Section 36(2) to conduct a "summary inquiry" and to reject nominations for "defects of a substantial character" is extraordinarily wide, and largely un-reviewable before polling, since Article 329 (b) bars courts from interfering mid-election. The law says no nomination should be rejected for defects not of a substantial character. But there are no written guidelines on what is substantial. And the only remedy to protest it is an election petition after the polls, when the damage is irreversible. In a democracy, this absolutism dressed in legal language has the potential to become a tool of political exclusion.

In Bihar this year, a Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) candidate's nomination was rejected for leaving some fields blank. Last year in Surat, Opposition candidates were eliminated after proposers denied signatures, delivering a Lok Sabha seat unopposed. In the 2019 elections in Varanasi, decorated BSF jawan Tej Bahadur Yadav was rejected because he could not obtain an Election Commission certificate overnight. In Birbhum, former IPS officer Debasish Dhar was kept off the ballot when his no-dues certificate from the government was delayed. Yet, there is no publicly available consolidated dataset on rejection grounds, patterns, or party-wise breakdowns. This opacity shields the weaponisation of procedure.

Procedural traps

Section 36 of the RP Act mandates that only qualified candidates can contest. However, the process of verifying qualification has accumulated complexity over the years. Well-intended judicial interventions have paradoxically worsened the problem. Supreme Court directions mandating detailed affidavits on assets, liabilities, and criminal cases were meant to ensure transparency, yet each new disclosure requirement added another opportunity for technical rejection. For example, in *Resurgence India versus Election Commission* (2013), the Supreme Court held that false declarations lead to prosecution but don't invalidate nominations, only incomplete ones do. This means that a candidate who lies but fills all columns stays on the ballot, and one who makes a good-faith error can be rejected. The system now punishes incomplete declarations more harshly than dishonest ones.

Gruelling rules: RJD candidate from the Saran constituency, Rohini Acharya, files her nomination papers for the Lok Sabha elections, in April 2024. ANI

A missing signature, a mismatched electoral number, a form filed at 3:05 PM instead of 3:00 PM, a blank column in an affidavit, a delayed oath, a missing no-dues certificate – any of these can end a candidacy. The burden of proof thus lies entirely on the citizen seeking to exercise a legal right, and not on the official denying it. This is constitutionally backwards. The right to be voted for is the necessary twin of the right to vote. Without candidates to choose from, the ballot is ritual without substance. The first principle must be that every qualified citizen has a presumptive right to contest. That right can be denied only when the RO establishes, with clear evidence, a substantive constitutional or statutory disqualification. Technical paperwork errors cannot be a reason for disqualification.

Some of the common procedural technicalities on which nominations are rejected include:

The oath trap: Every candidate must take an oath before a specified authority after filing nomination but before scrutiny. If its too early, it's invalid, and if too late, the nomination is rejected. Moreover, if it is not before the specified authority, your form is again bound to be rejected.

The notarisation trap: Every Form 26 affidavit (an affidavit which needs to be filed by the candidate along with nomination papers) must be notarised by a specified authority. Not having done so can result in rejection of the nomination.

The certificate trap: Along with nomination papers, the candidate is liable to submit no-dues certificates from municipal bodies, electricity boards, or other government departments; clearance certificates from the Election Commission for government servants; and various other bureaucratic attestations, each of them a veto point when it comes to the time of scrutiny. Thus, each issuing office becomes a potential chokepoint where deliberate delay can eliminate a candidacy.

These procedures, once designed as safeguards, have turned into potential opportunities for delay and manipulation.

Here, bureaucratic compliance is being rewarded over democratic legitimacy.

Facilitation, not filtration

Other democracies show a different approach. In the U.K., ROs help candidates fix errors before deadlines. Canada mandates a 48-hour correction period. Germany requires written notice of problems, time to remedy them, and multiple appeal layers. Australia encourages early submission to allow corrections. The common idea being that officials are facilitators, not sentinels.

India also has a checklist system. The RO Handbook instructs ROs to point out defects at the time of filing and record them in a checklist. But this checklist has no legal standing. The Handbook itself clarifies that the checklist "will not prevent the Returning Officer from pointing out other defects, if any, discovered later during scrutiny." A nomination can be marked defect-free at filing, yet rejected at scrutiny for defects the RO discovers later. The candidate has no right to rely on the checklist, and the RO faces no legal obligation to honour it. The checklist thus remains as an illusion of transparency without offering any real protection to the candidate.

The RO's role must shift from discretion to duty. When a deficiency exists, the RO must issue a detailed written notice specifying the exact error, the legal provision violated, and the correction needed. Candidates must get a guaranteed 48-hour window to fix it after receiving this notice.

The law must thus classify deficiencies into three categories: (1) technical or paperwork defects such as missing signatures, blank affidavit columns, clerical errors, no-dues certificates etc. These cannot justify rejection; (2) matters requiring verification of authenticity such as disputed signatures, challenged documents etc. These require investigations before rejection; and (3) constitutional and statutory bars. These should lead to immediate and absolute disqualification. Moreover, every rejection order must be reasoned. The RO must specify which exact requirement was not met, which provision of law was violated, what evidence supports the finding, and why the defect is substantial enough to justify rejection.

A digital solution

The Election Commission of India (EC) can build a nomination system that is digital-by-default; one that doesn't depend on excessive paperwork. This is not to argue for a digital-only framework, but a digital-by-default framework that can eliminate disqualifications based on blank columns and misspelt names or typos. The entire nomination process could move to an integrated online portal linked with the electoral roll. The system could automatically validate voter ID, age, and constituency details. Oath, affidavit submission, proposer verification, and deposit payment could all be digital. Moreover, every nomination's progress such as when it was filed, verified, deficiency notified, corrected, accepted or rejected, should be visible on a public dashboard with timestamps and reasons.

Upholding democracy

When a nomination is rejected arbitrarily, two rights are violated: the candidate's right to contest and the voters' right to choose. The world's largest democracy deserves a nomination process that is modern, fair, and inclusive, where the burden of proof is on the state to justify exclusion, not on citizens to prove their right to participate.

The EC should work towards a citizen-friendly nomination process that would end the bureaucratic red tape around disqualifications for blank columns, wrong payment modes, misplaced signatures, misspelt names and typos, no dues certificates or a delayed oath. It should work towards a simplified process that removes the possibility of using procedure as politics.

Kannan Gopinathan is a former IAS officer who is now part of the Congress.

THE GIST

- India's electoral nomination process vests extraordinary discretion in a single official — the Returning Officer (RO).
- In *Resurgence India versus Election Commission*, the Supreme Court held that false declarations lead to prosecution but don't invalidate nominations, only incomplete ones do. This means that a candidate who lies but fills all columns stays on the ballot, and one who makes a good-faith error can be rejected.
- When a nomination is rejected arbitrarily, two rights are violated: the candidate's right to contest and the voters' right to choose.

ANDHRA PRADESH CAPITAL REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Rayapudi, Amaravathi - 522 237

Procurement Tender Notice

S.No	NIT Nos	Name of the work
1	78/MAU61-EE0ED(OTH)/16/2025-DP/ 2nd call, dated 06.11.2025	RFP FOR ENGAGEMENT OF DEVELOPERS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE **7.935 ACRES** LAND PARCEL LOCATED IN PITCHIKALAPALEM VILLAGE, AMARAVATI THROUGH PPP MODE
2	79/MAU61-EE0ED(OTH)/16/2025-DP/ 2nd call, dated 06.11.2025	RFP FOR ENGAGEMENT OF DEVELOPERS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE **19.72 ACRES** LAND PARCEL LOCATED IN MANDADAM VILLAGE, AMARAVATI THROUGH PPP MODE
3	81/MAU61-EE0ED(OTH)/16/2025-DP/ 2nd call, dated 06.11.2025	RFP FOR ENGAGEMENT OF DEVELOPERS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE **30.34 ACRES** LAND PARCEL LOCATED IN RAYAPUDI VILLAGE, AMARAVATI THROUGH PPP MODE

The bid can be downloaded on AP e-procurement portal from 07.11.2025 to 22.11.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs. Due date for submission of Bid is 22.11.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs, Technical bid opening 22.11.2025 @16.00Hrs. For further details Please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.crda.ap.gov.in.**

Sd/- Commissioner, APCRDA, Vijayawada.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagara Division, Opposite to Sagar Hospitals, Kumararwamy Layout. Bengaluru-560078. Telephone: 080-26669585, e-mail: eepnbbmp@gmail.com

No: EE(PN)/TEND/10/2025-26 **Date: 06.11.2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagara Division, Bengaluru South City Corporation. Bengaluru Invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations for the constructions of work detailed in the table below. (Standard Tender Document KW-3).

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Improvements to roads and drains at JHBCS Layout and surrounding areas in Ward No-192 Kumaraswamy Layout. (3RD CALL). **Approximate value of work :** Rs.75.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 1,50,000/-.
2	Improvements to Road and Drain at 89th Cross Pipeline road from Dayananda Sagar College to ISRO Layout bus stop in Ward No-192 Kumaraswamy Layout (Old Ward No-181). (3RD CALL). **Approximate value of work :** Rs.95.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 1,50,000/-.

Time Schedule/Calendar of events: 1) Pre bid meeting will be held on 17.11.2025 at 15:00 hours. 2) Tender must be submitted online on or before 16:00 hours on 24.11.2025. 3) Technical Bids will be opened on the website on or after 25.11.2025 at 16:05 hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagara Division

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID / TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal Only)

Tenders are invited under **"GOODS"** category as per RTPS requirements & from the contractors / agencies through KPP Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works.

Procurement of **1. KPCL/2025-26/1ND2018/CALL-2,** LP Pump Spares for AHP-1 of RTPS. EMD: **Rs. 42,000/-. 2. KPCL/2025-26/IND1933/CALL-2**, Gaskets for Coal & Oil Firing Equipments. EMD: **Rs. 1,900/-. 3. KPCL/2025-26/IND2009/CALL-2**, Hydrogen Gas for RTPS. EMD: **Rs.18,600/-. 4. KPCL/2025-26/IND2132**,Polymeric Dispersant ter-polymer-HSP. EMD: **Rs. 38,300/-. 5. KPCL/2025-26/IND2131,** Phosphono Butane Tricarboxylic Acid EMD: **Rs.1,08,200/-. 6. KPCL/2025-26/IND1972/CALL-2**, Temperature transmitters for Unit-4. EMD: **Rs.10,900/-. 7. KPCL/2025-26/IND2135**, MS Angles, plates channels etc., for RTPS. EMD: **Rs. 13,100/-. 8. KPCL/2025-26/IND2136**, Radiator Assembly for CHP of RTPS. EMD: **Rs.74,800/-.** Last date for receipt of tenders: **11.11.2025, 16:00Hrs.** (For Sl. No. 6), **12.11.2025, 16:00Hrs.** (For Sl. No. 4 & 5), **13.11.2025, 16:00Hrs.** (For Sl. No. 7), **14.11.2025, 16:00Hrs.** (For Sl. No.3), **15.11.2025, 16:00Hrs.** (For Sl. No. 8) and **17.11.2025, 16:00Hrs.** (For Sl. No. 1 & 2), Further details Contact: **Executive Engineer (Purchase),** Mobile No.: **94495 97966.** E-mail: **eeprtps@gmail.com.**

9. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3616, Dated: 28.10.2025, Re-sleeving of Transport Air Compressor(TAC) Cylinders of model TBTD-RM in Unit-3 & 4 AHP and Re-sleeving in Instrument Air Compressor(IAC) & Transport Air Compressor(TAC) Cylinders of M/s. Chicago Pneumatic make in Unit 1 to 4 AHP of RTPS. Last date for submission of completed bids(Two Parts): **13.11.2025 upto 16:00Hrs.** Further details Contact: **Executive Engineer (AHP-1),** Mobile No.: **94495 96544.**

10. KPCL/2025-26/SE0297/CALL-2, Dated: 30.10.2025, Providing 02 Nos. of pickup van with GPS for KPCL-RTPS project locations for a period of two years (Extendable by one more year on Satisfactory service). EMD: **Rs. 41,700/-.** Last date for submission of completed bids(Two Parts): **10.11.2025, 16:30Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (HMT),** Mobile No.: **82775 02708, RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar - 584170, Raichur District.**

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION-ZONE-2
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BBMP Anganawadi Centre, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Banglore-560018

NO.EE/CMP/TEND/E-PROC/10/2025-26 Date: 06.11.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification: Two Cover System)
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, invites tenders from eligible contractor registered in KPWD/BBMP registered in KPWD/CPWD/ Railways/ MES/National Highway Or any State Government organizations Class-I Contractor for the work mentioned in the statement below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Construction of BBMP Girls High School Phase-2 in Rayapuram and Improvements to Road Pavement, Drainage including cross drainage structure in Rayapuram, Azadnagar, Chamarajpet and SKR Market wards in Chamarajpet Division. **Estimate Cost (Rs. In Lakhs) Including GST : Rs. 2200.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 19.00 Lakh (Rs.1.00 Lakh online plus remaining balance BG/FDR)**
2.	Improvement of traffic junctions along arterial and sub-arterial roads in Chamarajpet Division to reduce congestion, improve airflow and greenery. **Estimate Cost (Rs. In Lakhs) Including GST : Rs. 330.00 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 4.20 Lakh (Rs.1.00 Lakh online plus remaining balance BG/FDR).**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded **from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from 10.11.2025 (2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16.00 hours on **19.11.2025** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(3)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **13.11.2025 at 11.00 hours** in the office of the Chief Engineer (Central, Zone-2), Annexure-3, GBA Head Office, Bangalore-560001 **(4)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division on **21.11.2025 at 11.00 hours.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, 4th & 5th Floors, East Wing , Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-2265383
website : www.kiadb.in,

No: KIADB/JDTP/F No: 176/484/2025-26 **Date: 06.11.2025**

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

KIADB has obtained Environmental Clearance (EC) for the Adinarayana Hosahalli Industrial Area Phase-II, Konaghatta and Nagadenahalli villages, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District to an extent of 981.51 Acres (397.2 Ha) by State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) on 05-11-2025. The copy of Environmental Clearance available in the https://parivesh.nic.in website.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1
KIADB, Bengaluru

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 06-11-2025 **DIPR/CP/3644/CCL/2025-26**

PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, KOPPAL
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jawahar Road, Koppal - 583 231,
E-mail : eepredkpl@gmail.com

No. : E.E./P.R.E.D./D.N./KPL/D.B./TENDER/2025-26/1919 **Date : 06-11-2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, **Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal,** invites item rates Tender through **KPPP One / Two Cover Systems,** from eligible PWD and PRE Department registered contractors through Standard Bid Document KW-1, 2, 3 & 4, under Head of Account 2024-25 KKRDB, in **Different Talukas of Koppal District.** This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka. For more information Contact above the Office. Eligible Contractors Participate Online by entering into **KPPP Portal : http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal.

Works Details : 1) Construction Of CC Road and Drain at Hulegudda Makkalli and Mandalgeri Village Limits in Yelburga Constituency of Koppal District. Indent19874, Rs. 230.96 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 347000.00, Period : 09 Months, 2) Construction Of CC Road and Drain at Arakera Chandur Tondihal Bandihal and Chennapanahalli Village Limits in Yelburga Constituency of Koppal District. Indent19870. Rs. 336.02 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 505000.00, Period : 09 Months, 3) Construction of CC Road and Drain at Chikkabidanal, Lakamagule and Ryanaki Village Limits in Yelburga Constituency of Koppal District. Indent19871, Rs. 335.48 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 504000.00, Period : 09 Months, 4) Construction of CC Road and Drain at Chittapur Bhanapur Lakamapur Sompur and Adavihalli Village Limits of Kukanur Taluka in Yelburga Constituency of Koppal District. Indent19872, Rs. 344.12 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 517000.00, Period : 09 Months, 5) Construction of CC Road and Drain at Kalbhavi Yaddoni Vanajabhavi Gule and Guntamadu Village Limits in Yelburga Constituency of Koppal District. Indent19873, Rs. 419.86 Lakhs, EMD : Rs. 630000.00, Period : 09 Months.

Tender Processing Fees : As per E-Procurement, Download of Schedule-B in E-Proc Portal : From 07-11-2025 Time after 10.00 a.m. upto 21-11-2025 Time 16.00 Hours, Tender Receipt Last Dates From : 07-11-2025 Time 11.00 a.m. upto 21-11-2025 Time 16.30 hrs, Technical Bid Open Date and Time (Both Technical & Financial bids are Opened as same Date for KW-1 & KW-2, KW-3 Works) : 24-11-2025 in Office hours, Financial Bid Open Date and Time : For KW-4 After getting Technical Approval from Competent Authority, Bid will be Opened.

General instructions : 1) Contractors Participate in all Tenders Online only, **2)** Pre-qualification Documents should be Uploaded by Scanning all Certificates & Other Concerned Documents Online only, **3)** Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in Eproc - Portal.

For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed Official, Officer, Contractors may get the information by going through **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal. This notified works can be downloaded in **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal from Dated : 07-11-2025.**

Note : The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any of the tenders at any stage without assigning the reasons.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/437/Manipal/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BYADGI

No.: TMC/BYD/JHA/2025-26 Date : 05-11-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Officer Town Municipal Council Byadgi, District Haveri invites e-tenders for the following Work Indents Under Jal Hi Amruth Grant. Interested contractor can download the tender documents from the e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Indent Number	Estimated Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	DMA/2025-26/IND5420	75.0

Sd/- Balachandragouda S. Patil, President TMC Byadgi
Sd/- Subhash D. Malagi Vice-President TMC Byadgi
Sd/- Vinaykumar Holeppagouda Chief Officer TMC Byadgi

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION,
Head Office, Poonamallee High Road,
Chennai Metro Rail Limited, (CMRL) Admin Building,
Koyambedu, Chennai-600 107
Ph.No.: (044) 26426773, Email ID: tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE

BS3/071742/2025 **Date: 06.11.2025**

Short e-tender No.BS3/071742/2025 -TNCSC/25-26

Tamilnadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites online short electronic tender for the **"PURCHASE OF 600 LAKH NUMBERS OF FORTIFIED RBD PALMOLEIN OIL 1 LITRE POUCHES (910 gms)" for 3 months of January 2026, February 2026 and March 2026.**

Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded from https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.

The bidders have to participate only through online bidding with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

Last Date and Time for Online Submission: 23.11.2025 up to 11.00 A.M.

DIPR/6024/Tender/2025 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.CGM(Tech)/PS/2025-26 Date:05.11.2025

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bid on electronic mode for the following work against following Enquiry Number:

Tender Enquiry No./Name of the work
KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT2952
Dismantling, Transportation (TO & FRO), Repair of Faulty 31.5 MVA & below capacity Power Transformer, Testing, Assembling, Erection and Commissioning of Repaired Power Transformer at KPTCL Destined Station on Rate Contract Basis.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to the KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. on or after 10.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs**. The Last date and time for receipt of bids is **09.12.2025 at 15.00 hrs.** Any extension of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the e-procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidder before the last date of submission of bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech.), KPTCL, Corporate Office, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION KALABURAGI

No : EE/PRED/KLB/KKRDB /TS-5/2025-26/4118 Date : 03/11/2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-procurement Two Cover System)

1) Name of work: Improvements and Formation of Roads 24 Various Villages in Chittapur Consstituency **Total 24 Works,** 2) Head of account: 3054 LUMP SUM for the year 2025-26 3) Amount put to tender: **Minimum Rs. 49,20,889.63, Maximum Rs. 95,22,355.92,** 4) Class of Contractor: Class- III and Above, 5) Issue of Blank Tender Documents: **04-11-2025 to 12-11-2025 upto 4.00 pm,** 6) Tender Form Fee: As per KPPP Norms, 7) E.M.D. Fee: Minimum Rs. 49,500.00, Maximum Rs. 1,90,500.00, 8) Receipt of completed tender documents: **04-11-2025 to 12-11-2025 upto 4.00 pm**, 9) Technical Bid Opening Date: **13-11-2025 After 4.00 pm**, 10) Financial Bid opening Date: **14-11-2025 After 11.00 am,** 11) For more details contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Opp: Karnataka Grameen Bank (PKGB) Head office, Kusnoor Road, Rajapur Kalaburagi, 12) Website Address: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/686/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Kalaburagi**

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD DIVISION, KALABURAGI

No: EE/PWD/KD/TS-4/Tender Notification/2025-26/5004 Date : 04.11.2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites Expressoin of Inerest (EoI) e-tender for the work indent No. Supply & Installation of 30KW Roof top Solar Power Plants in Various Locations of ST catergory KRIES Hostel Building in KKRDB Region Under KKRDB CDQ for the year 2024-25 W.I.PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_30 (Estimate purpose), 2) Head of account **KKRDB (CDQ),** 3) Last date for quries : **19.11.2025 (17.30 Hrs)**, 4) Last date for Submission of Bid : **20.11.2025 (16.00 Hrs)**, 5) Date of Opening of Tender / Technical Bid : **21.11.2025 (16.30 Hrs)**, 6) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi. 07) **Note : GST will be paid Separately.** 08) **website: www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in,** 09) Bidders Should Note That : **Note** 1) Undersigned reserves the right to Cancel / Postpone/ Reject any or all the tenders at any point of time during tender process without assigning any reason. 2) Changes in the tender process will not be Published in the News Papers Bidders may get Details of Changes in KPPP Portal Only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/681/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity PWD Divison Kalaburagi

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಾಮಿನೀಸ ಆವರಣ, ಯಾದವಗಿರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು-570020

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ/ನೀಸ&ಒಚ(ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)/ಸ.ಅ/ಟಿಎನ್-15/673/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.11.2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ KTPP ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗೆ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
				ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	kw-1,Kw-2 & Kw-3	03 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	131.02	06.11.2025	13.11.2025	14.11.2025
2	kw-1,	13 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	145.36	06.11.2025	21.11.2025	24.11.2025
3	Service Tenders	02 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	-	06.11.2025	21.11.2025	24.11.2025

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1181/ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಸಿ/2025–26

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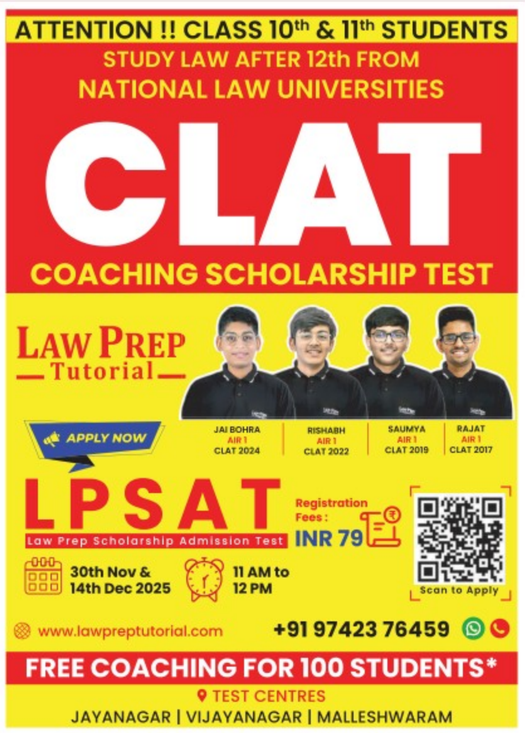
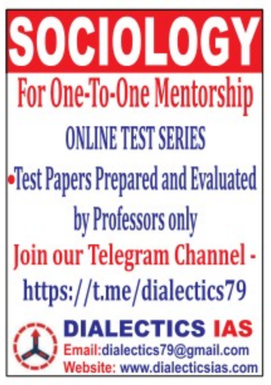


EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL



TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT
No.1 Rajaji Salai, Chennai - 1

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

NO.SWH/E-Auction-1/009/2025/ TC dt.07.11.25 MSTC REF: MSTC/ SRO/Chennai Port Authority /4 / Traffic Department /25-26/42155 [540481]

E-Auction Notice for sale of 1 Lot (1) Semi Coke in Bags, lying inside Chennai Port Area in "as is where is" condition, on 27.11.2025.

Inspection Date : From : 07-11-25 to 26-11-25.

For further details log on to: www.chennaiport.gov.in or https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/index_new.jsp

Sd./-
TRAFFIC MANAGER

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Farida Begum W/O, Mohammed Siraj Ahmed R/o Dob: 08/06/1960, No 542,1st Cross, gowripet, Kolar, karnataka-563101 have changed my name to Faridunnissa.

I, Asma Jabeen W/O, Mohammed Shahazada R/o Dob: 11-11-1985, No 542,1st Cross, Gowripet, kolar Taluk Kolar District-563101 have changed my name to N Asma Jabeen.

I, VEENA R J D/o Jayaram, R/at No.65, Veerabhadrappa Layout, Dasanapura Hobli, Siddana Hosahalli, Bangalore-562123 have changed my name to Syeeda Heena vide Affidavit dated 06.11.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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This is to inform the general public that certain fraudsters are misusing the name, logo, and employee identities of WealthyIN Broking Private Limited, a SEBI-registered Stock Broker, on WhatsApp, Instagram and other social medias to create fake groups, ask people to register, make payments, and promise false profits through the following numbers: +91 9597630302, 9519611121, 7606836041, 7022485829, and also through other whatsapp & Telegram channels

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For any clarification, contact:
WealthyIN Broking Pvt. Ltd.
PN Plaza, 1090/B, 18th Cross, 3rd Sector, HSR Layout, Bengaluru – 560102.
Ph: 9035033597

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, SAVITHA Ananda Krishna aged about 49 years R/o of No 59, Lakshmi Nivas, 1st Cross, 4th Main , Vinayakanagar, Rameshnagar, Marathahalli Colony, Bengaluru - 560037 have changed my name from Savitha Ananda Krishna to Savitha Sudhakaran vide Affidavit dated: 3-11-2025 before notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, Bengaluru

I, SURAJ Kashinath Birajdar S/o Kashinath Birajdar and Shobha, R/at Near Datta Mandir, FL No.3, Nishigandha Building, Avanti Nagar, Murarji Pethm Solapur, Dist Solapur, Maharashtra - 413001, presently in Bangalore, have changed my name to Sameer vide Affidavit dated 06.11.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

I, MOHAMMED Rakshan.S.R, S/o Salam Riyaz Ahmed, R/at No.143/6, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, J J R Nagar, K.H.Ranganath Colony, Bengaluru-560018, have changed my name from Mohamed Rakshan to Mohammed Rakshan.S.R. vide affidavit dated 30/10/2025 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE Public in General is hereby notified that my client Mrs. VIJAYA DAKESH, W/o. Late P Dakesh, residing at Flat No. FF–500, DG Meadows, 12th Street, Prakruthi Township, Babusapalya, Bangalore – 560043, my client husband Late P Dakesh had purchased the schedule property from Sri. Sathyappa, through Sale Deed bearing document No. BNS–1–01982–2008–09, stored in CD No. BNSD22, dated 08–08–2008, registered in the Sub Registrar Banaswadi, Bangalore whereas the original document pertaining to the schedule including the sale deed mentioned above were Lost / Misplaced and Police complaint has been lodged FIR No. 1841983/2025. If anyone traces the document and / or has any objections based on legal claim/s if any, is required to produce / lodge the same before the undersigned either in person or by send it under RPAD with 15 (FIFTEEN) DAYS from the date of this publication. SCHEDULE PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of the schedule Property bearing Site No. 5 and 6, Katha No. 89/5, formed in Property No. 89/5, situated at Horamavu Agara Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 2400 square feet, bounded on East by : Site No. 4, West by : Site No. 7, belonging to Purchaser, North by : Road, South by : Road, Contact No. 9902400349, E–Mail : vijayadakesh@gmail.com, Advocate : B.Seshagiri, Banaswadi, Bangalore 43.

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

Surreal beauty: Scaffoldings are put up as restoration work goes on at the dome of the Taj Mahal in Agra on October 17. AFP

The actual Taj story: how a monument's history has been warped

Tushar Goel's film, 'The Taj Story', has reignited controversy over the Taj Mahal's origins, claiming it is a Hindu temple rather than a mausoleum built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. The film's debut highlights debates about the interplay of history and ideology in contemporary India

Ziya Us Salam

A little over 60 years ago, Purushottam Nagesh Oak slept and dreamt. He woke up and claimed that the Taj Mahal in Agra was actually a Hindu palace going back all the way to 4th century. Friends of Mr. Oak, an English teacher-turned-lawyer-turned-journalist but never a historian, told him that the Taj Mahal couldn't have been a fourth century structure as the technology employed in building the Taj in the 17th century didn't exist back then. The fantasist turned a pragmatist, and Oak brought his argument forward by a few centuries. The Taj was now claimed to be a Hindu temple. This was in 1989. He wrote articles and a book too, but found no support from historians. Even the Supreme Court dismissed his claims as "a bee in his bonnet" in 2000.

But post-2014, history is like a revolving door, you enter and exit at your ease and pleasure. You pick and choose, you circumvent and invent. Dress it up as a movie and claim you are looking at history anew. That is how we get a movie like Tushar Amrish Goel's *The Taj Story*, starring former BJP MP Paresh Rawal; just like we had *The Kashmir Files* and *The Bengal Files*, starring Anupam Kher and Mithun Chakraborty, all ideological partners of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

With *The Taj Story*, Goel goes where no historian has gone. Proof, evidence and knowledge amount for nothing as the director makes a case for the Mughal monument being actually a Hindu temple, much like the BJP leader Sangeet Som who called it alternately a Shiva temple and a monument built by a man who incarcerated his father. Mr. Som obviously couldn't make out a Shah Jahan from an Aurangzeb and hence got mixed up. Much like Oak, oops, Goel, who sees no difference between history and mythology, facts and fantasy.

Recorded history

Talking of facts, the Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan after his favourite wife Arjumand Bano Begum breathed her last after bearing the last of their 14 children. Its chief architect was Ustad Ahmed Lahori. The land for her last resting place was procured from Mirza Raja Jai Singh of Amber who had inherited it from Raja Man Singh, a celebrated general of Akbar, who was Shah Jahan's grandfather. Shah Jahan compensated Jai Singh with four havelis from the royal property for the massive haveli in which rests Mumtaz Mahal. His *firman* to Jai Singh, the latter's agreement and the Mughal emperor's subsequent letter of granting him four havelis in lieu of one, are all part of history; unlike the claim of *The Taj Story* which talks in terms of a massacre and genocide of the locals for fulfilling the wishes of an emperor and his consort!

The work on the tomb started in 1632 with the finest craftsmen from across the country and West Asia. The chief mason was Mohammed Hanif from Baghdad who earned ₹1000 a month for his efforts. The pinnacle was built by Qayam Khan of Lahore and its Quranic inscriptions were done by Amanat Khan Shirazi. The mosaic work was done by local Hindu workers. Above all, some 20,000 workmen toiled for 22 years to build the monument to love. Its white marble came from Jaipur, lapis lazuli from Sri Lanka, crystal from China and coral from Arabia. The monument uses the double dome technique, previously seen only in the Humayun's tomb in Delhi, and never seen in the country before the arrivals of the Turks.

Not the first time

Over the years, many have tried to appropriate credit for its beauty and majesty. In the 17th century, it was claimed by many in the West that the architect of the Taj was Venetian Geronimo Veroneo, a jeweller by profession. Then came the claim by Mughal Beg in Tarikh-e-Taj Mahal that it was designed by Muhammad Effendi, an architect supposedly sent by the Sultan of Turkey. Effendi though was as much an architect as Oak was a historian. In the mid 19th century it was claimed that the monument was the result of the genius of Frenchman Austin de Bordeaux, a jeweller. However, Austin died in 1632, the year the work on the Taj began. With his death all claims of Austin being the Taj's architect were buried. And facts began to be raised.

As for fantasy, well there is Goel's film, never mind its claim of presenting the "untold history of the Taj Mahal". The film, replete with stereotypes of kohl-lined, skullcap-donning Muslims aims at building a nation's memory on unreasoned mythology, far removed from the well argued debates of history. Much like Oak's view that Christianity was nothing but Krishan-Niti. Not game for any ridiculous claims in an insipid film which opened with a mere 14% attendance in the first show? Watch M. Sadiq's 1963-saga *Taj Mahal*. Sure, you would remember its song, *'Jo wada kiya woh nibhana padega'*, penned by Sahir Ludhianvi and sung with much love by Mohammad Rafi and Lata Mangeshkar. Sadiq's film with Pradip Kumar and Bina Rai in the lead cast, made no effort at replacing history with mythology.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

With 'democratic socialism' becoming a topic of discussion following Zohran Mamdani's victory in the New York mayoral elections, here's a quiz on its purveyors

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1
Mr. Mamdani quoted this democratic socialist in his victory speech; name this Indian statesman inspired by Fabian socialist principles.

QUESTION 2
Mr. Mamdani's biggest and most high-profile political backer in the mayoral elections was himself first elected mayor in the city of Burlington in Vermont, before embarking upon two major presidential primaries as an unapologetic "democratic socialist". Who is this?

QUESTION 3
With both the U.S. and Canada regarded as advanced capitalist countries, very few "democratic socialists" or socialist minded leaders have been at the apex of power in North America. But this Canadian leader broke the mould as a socialist who was responsible for the institution of the single payer, universal healthcare system in the country. Name him.

QUESTION 4
Wielding executive power in his country when the person who is the answer to question no 1became prime minister in his, this person was also responsible for the National Health Service, a comprehensive public funded healthcare system that endures to this day. Name him.

QUESTION 5
A more thoroughbred Marxist than others mentioned in this quiz, this person, a revolutionary, was a discerning critic of the Bolshevik revolution's authoritarianism and a co-founder of the Spartacus League in Germany. Name her.

Visual question:
Identify this Indian democratic socialist who is credited with introducing foam-cushioned seats in second-class sleeper coaches for the first time in India. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Kohli represents this team in domestic cricket. **Ans: Delhi**
2. Number of centuries Kohli has scored. **Ans: 82**
3. Kohli's first half-century in domestic cricket happened at Feroze Shah Kotla against this team. **Ans: Haryana**
4. Kohli led the team to victory in the U-19 World Cup in Malaysia in this year. **Ans: 2008**
5. Kohli's international career began with an ODI tour in this country. **Ans: Sri Lanka**
6. Kohli scored his maiden Test century here. **Ans: Adelaide, Australia**
Visual: This is considered Kohli's signature stroke. **Ans: Cover drive**
Early Birds: Arun Kumar Singh| Sudhir Thapa| Rakesh Sharma| Varnika Semwal| Nitin Rana

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

Upendran

"Why are you limping?"
"I wore a new pair of shoes yesterday. The shoes bit me."
"Shoes don't 'bite'. Animals bite, people bite. Shoes, on the other hand, 'pinch'. For example, I couldn't walk very quickly because my new shoes kept pinching."
"I hate it when that happens. My new sandals kept pinching me, so I took them back to the shop."
"Before putting on a new pair of sandals, I always apply vaseline on my feet. It prevents the sandals from pinching."
"That's a pretty good idea. I must try it. But what if the sandals continue to pinch?"
"Good question. You could always pinch someone else's sandals!"
"Pinch somebody's sandals? What do you mean?"
"When you 'pinch' something from someone, you take something from someone without his/her permission. For example..."
"...so, 'to pinch' means 'to steal'."
"That's right. It's used in informal contexts. For example, I can say, the thief pinched my cousin's wallet."
"During summer, we pinch mangoes from our neighbour's tree."
"That's a good example. I used to pinch my sister's pencils when I was young."
"Somebody pinched my his car."
"One can also 'pinch' ideas. The Russian scientist accused the Americans of pinching his idea."
"Sujatha accused me of pinching her ideas for my essay."
"Poor Sujatha! She's ill. You know that, don't you?"
"Yes, I do."
"I paid her a visit yesterday. She looked pinched and..."
"...looked pinched! Who would dare pinch Sujatha? I don't think..."
"...when you say that somebody is looking pinched or has a pinched look, it means that he/she is looking pale, tired, or haggard. This usually happens when the person is cold, tired, or ill. For example, when they brought Ram home from the hospital, there was a pinched look on his face."
"When Ramesh got off the roller-coaster, his face was white and pinched. Can I say that?"
"You certainly can! Here's another one. The dog hadn't eaten anything in three days. Its pinched face told us that its end was very near."
"Couldn't you come up with a little more cheerful example? By the way, could you lend me Rs. 100?"
"What's the matter? Are you pinched for cash?"
"How many times are you going to 'pinch' me today?"
"Oh, I don't know. Do you know what 'pinched for cash' means?"
"I guess it means 'not have enough money'."
"Yes! When you are pinched for something, you don't have enough of it."
"We had moved out of our old flat because we were pinched for space. Does that sound OK?"
"Sounds good to me."
Published by The Hindu on August 18, 1998.

Word of the day

Foppish:
affecting extreme elegance in dress and manner

Synonym: dandyish

Usage: *She married a foppish aristocrat.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/foppishpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'fɒp.ɪʃ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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M BG-BGE

BWSSB to take up nine new STPs with 535 MLD capacity

It is looking at generating revenue from STPs through generating power and manure from the sludge

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

These STPs will, for the first time, be equipped with the latest anaerobic technologies, like the A2O Technology with tertiary treatment unit. FILE PHOTO

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has called tenders for nine new Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in the city that together will treat 535 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage.

This will take the city's overall sewage treatment capacity to 1,883.5 MLD when completed. Despite this, the city will still be a long way behind to reach a target of over 2,740 MLD. Presently, the city generates 2,120 MLD of sewage every day and an additional 620 MLD is expected with the augmentation of Cauvery V Stage.

"Six of these STPs will produce power through biogas, and the tertiary treated sludge will be converted into manure and sold. Both these will bring in revenue to the board. They will also have an odour control unit that helps reduce the foul odour that usually comes from a STP," said V. Ramprasath Manohar, Chairman, BWSSB.

Power generation

The six STPs with a processing capacity of 50 MLD or more will generate power up to 4 MW through biogas. This is a new technology being implemented in the city. Only the STPs in Hebbal and Vrishabhavati valley currently have this technology. This power is locally consumed to run the plant, designed in such a way that at least half of the power requirement is met through biogas. The power bill is one of the biggest components of running an STP, and this will reduce the board's dependence on the Bescom grid, saving money, officials said.

Eco-friendly

These STPs will, for the first time, be equipped with the latest anaerobic technologies, like the A2O Technology with tertiary treatment unit - a disc filter, which will help meet outlet parameters with the new norms of Central Pollution Control Board and National Green Tribunal.

The disc filters as tertiary treatment units are more eco-friendly than conventional treatment units like multimedia units or sand filter beds. The sludge produced by these plants are treated and safe for use as manure. The BWSSB also intends to sell manure to generate revenue, the BWSSB sources said.

Funding

The nine STPs' put together will cost ₹2,071.21 crore.

Sources said that while the State government and the BWSSB each will pitch in with 25% of the cost, the rest will be financed through a loan. The BWSSB will soon call for an Expression of Interest (EoI) from financial institutions for the loan.

NITI Aayog member advocates for Unified Water Reuse Standards

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh at the workshop on 'Reuse of treated water', in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vinod K. Paul, a member of NITI Aayog, said that India needs a unified national standard to assure the public about the quality and safety of treated water.

Speaking at the two-day workshop on 'Reuse of treated water' on Thursday, Dr. Paul mentioned that deliberations are under way to formulate an integrated policy at the national-level for this purpose.

Jointly organised by the State government and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), the workshop spotlighted the critical decline in India's per capita water availability, now below 1,400 cubic metres, and the pressing need for a unified national framework to promote water reuse.

Dr. Paul called for ambitious national targets: 50% reuse by 2030 and full reuse by 2045. Currently, only 11 States have formal reuse policies, highlighting the urgency for a comprehensive national strategy.

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh showcased Bengaluru's efforts, including the rejuvenation of 110 lakes and a goal to achieve 100% water reuse and rainwater harvesting by 2028.

The BWSSB, which supplies 2,225 million litres of water daily, treats 1,350 MLD through 34 sewage treatment plants (STPs), with 12 more under construction, she said.

Tushar Giri Nath, Additional Chief Secretary of the Urban Development Department, emphasised the economic potential of treated water, proposing a rebranding of STPs as 'resource recovery centres'.

This shift could elevate the BWSSB's revenue from ₹190 crore to ₹1,000 crore annually, he said.

The workshop also featured technology exhibitions and expert panels discussing global best practices, policy development, and innovations in sustainable water reuse. On November 7, delegates will visit the Cubbon Park tertiary treatment plant and the KC Valley project.

Residents write to officials over delayed Varthur main road works

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While officials of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have repeatedly stated that the reconstruction of Varthur Main Road (State Highway-35) would be expedited, residents have claimed that there has been no progress.

They have once again written to the Urban Development Department through the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) seeking immediate intervention. The residents of Varthur, Gunjur, Balagere, and adjoining areas said that the road, an important State highway in East Bengaluru, has become unsafe and nearly unmotorable.

Dangerous journey

Large potholes, uneven surfaces, and frequent flooding during rains have made daily travel dangerous for thousands of commuters, including schoolchildren and senior citizens. Two-wheeler riders and pedestrians face danger, while ambulances and school buses often get stuck in traffic caused by the battered road, the citizens said.

Allegation

Though the Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) has been assigned the task of reconstructing and expanding the highway under the GBA's supervision, the residents alleged that no substantial work has taken place and that the condition of the roads continues to worsen despite repeated assurances. The letter said that the lack of coordination between KRDCL and GBA has left citizens suffering. The residents urged the government to expedite the sanctioned reconstruction using scientific design, durable materials, and proper sub-grade compaction.

The letter also called for the inclusion of storm-water drains, pedestrian footpaths, lane markings, street lighting, and roadside greenery to develop a sustainable 'Green Corridor'.

Bandh call put off by sugarcane farmers; deadline set for tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Sugarcane farmers who are protesting for higher prices, have put off their plans for a Belagavi bandh.

As the protest entered the eighth day, farmers set a deadline of Saturday evening to Shivanand Patil, Sugar Minister, who met them at Gurlapur in Belagavi district on Thursday.

However, they warned of a State bandh on Sunday, if their issue was not resolved in 24 hours. Farmers refused to travel to Bengaluru to participate in a meeting convened by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday.

They however, authorised Mr. Patil to speak to the Chief Minister and arrive at a remunerative price for sugarcane.

Farmers are demanding ₹3,500 per tonne for their produce, apart from cutting and transport charges, while factories have agreed to pay ₹3,200.

Shashikant Guru of Inchigeri Shakha Mutt, one of the leaders of the agitation, said that they would not participate in the meeting in Bengaluru, but would entrust this responsibility to the Minister. He vowed to continue the protest if the Minister did not announce a higher price by Saturday.

Chunappa Pujari, another leader, said that farmers associations would block four major national highways and roads on Sunday, if the government failed to convince the factories to pay higher prices.

Mr. Patil said that the power to fix Fair and Remunerative Prices was with the Union government and not the State government. "But still, I will speak to Union Ministers and officers, other Ministers in Karnataka and factory owners and try to find a solution. I assure you that I will try my best to get the best deal for farmers. I may play politics on other issues, but not on the issues faced by farmers. What I do, it will be aimed at farmers' welfare," the Minister said. Farmers groups are protesting in several places in Belagavi, Vijayapura, and Bagalkot districts.

Skill development can't be looked only from a job or economy point of view: Subroto Bagchi

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Skill development should not be looked only from a job or economy point of view, but it has a lot to do with citizens' dignity, purpose of living, quality of living and eventually all these amounts to nation-building, said Subroto Bagchi, co-founder of Mindtree, former chairman of Odisha Skill Development Authority.

Mr. Bagchi, a technocrat-turned-philanthropist was speaking at the Bengaluru Skill Summit organised by the State government here on Thursday.

In his keynote address, he said, "India's growth cannot be based on the number of graduates it churned out annually, but it is important to offer all these people skill development training and also offer respect to every skilled hand.... We must stop seeing skilling exercise as charity or compliance. For us, it should be a shared movement where government, industry, and society work together to uplift our youth."

India has to make skill aspirational, not an alternative, and to create that environment, he stated, the country has to invest in people. "When we do that, we are investing in the soul of India."

He suggested that alongside technical ability and exposure to technologies like AI-driven automation, the country should also equip its youth with empathy, adaptability, and lifelong learning to sustain success.

Ravi Venkatesan, chairman, Global Energy Alliance and former chairman, Microsoft India, said, "To prepare our youth for a huge shift, we must focus on three foundational skill sets – digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and human skills. This will also require continuous collaboration with the industry. Academic institutions should partner with enterprises like Google, Microsoft, and Infosys to ensure that no citizen of Karnataka is left behind in digital revolution."

E. V. Ramana Reddy, Chairman, Karnataka Skill Development Authority (KSDA), said there was an urgent need to transform India's skilling landscape.

The maiden edition of State-sponsored Bengaluru Skill Summit, themed "Workforce 2030: Scale, Systems, Synergy "concluded on Thursday.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Tender Notice No: ECN-1-2025/RT dated 31-10-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
AMC of Air Conditioning Unit including schedule maintenance and optional spares replacement of Chief Administrative Officer/ Construction/Bengaluru office complex along with rest houses, Cantonment Cantonment Construction/Mysuru Unit and Construction/ Bengaluru Cantonment & Local outsourcing the Electrical maintenance activity of Service buildings, Quarters, ORHS, Switch room being maintained by Senior Section Engineer/ Electrical/Construction/Bengaluru Cantonment Cantonment for a period of Two years including replacement of Electrical items.	Rs. 29,59,136.00/-

Last date for Submission of bids : Upto 11.00 hrs on 21.11.2025

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/ TRD-II/ Construction/Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/616/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO 23/SBC/25 of 15.10.2025 Through E-tendering

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Description of work	Approx. Value
Channarayapatna section : PWAY maintenance contract for two years 2025-2027 in Senior Section Engineer/PWAY/CNPA (Channarayapatna) section, under Divisional Engineer/South/Bengaluru jurisdiction.	₹4,71,78,746

Last Date for Submission of bids: Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 10.11.2025

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-ord Bengaluru

PUB/608/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that our clients have intended to purchase the Property mentioned in the Schedule Property from its owner-**Mr. Ratanlal Rathod son of Mr. Goparamji,** aged about 47 years, residing at No.48/1, 175, Near Gandhi Statue, Horamavu, Bengaluru 560043, If any person/s entity has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the Schedule Property or any part, thereof, such a person submit its/his/her/their claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no claims/objections and our clients shall proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Building bearing **No. 51,** located at South-East Corner of land bearing Survey No. 62/2A, situated at **Kanakagiri Layout, Horamavu Agara Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru,** now comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP measuring East to West **26 Feet,** and North to South **65 Feet,** in all measuring **1690 Square Feet,** and bounded on:

East By 30 Feet Road; West By Remaining Portion of Site No. 51; North By Site No. 50; and South By 30 Feet Road;

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Public notice is issued on behalf of our client **Sri. Venkatesh G. M.** to inform the general public that the **Original BDA Khatha** standing in the name of his Vendor **Sri. N. Purushotham Rao Magar,** bearing number **BDA/RO(S)/851/B.S.K. 16/2/05-06, dated 15/12/2005** pertaining to schedule property described below, has been lost/ misplaced.

Any person who may have found or is in possession of the said document is hereby called upon to return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07(Seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no person has any claim over the said document.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

Residential vacant site bearing no. **851,** measuring East to West 6 Meters, North to South 9 Meters, totally 54 Square Meters, situated at **2nd Block, Banashankari 6th Stage Layout,** formed by the Bangalore Development Authority(BDA), and bounded on the:-

East by : Site No. 850, West by : Site No. 852, North by : Road, South by : Private Property.

Herald P. Veigas., Advocate
Elevate Legal Solutions
No.233, Paradigm Heights,
KAS Officer's Colony, BTM 2nd Stage,
Behind Silk Board, Bangalore - 560 068.
M- +919686533221

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the right, title, interest, benefits, entitlements of whatsoever nature of the respective owners of the properties situated at Srinivaspura village,Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore rural Dist., which is more particularly described in the schedule hereunder written and herein after collectively called SCHEDULE PROPERTY". Our client("Client") is desirous of entering into the sale transaction of the schedule property with respective owners of the schedule property who have represented to our client that they are the absolute owners of their respective extents in the schedule property with rights of alienation over the same.

All persons including an individual, a Hindu undivided family, a company, banks, financial institutions, non- banking financial institutions, a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and or creditors having objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of schedule property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, bequest, succession, family arrangement, grant, possession, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, maintance,easement,license,bequeath,share,assignment,lien,attachment,development rights, covenant, settlement right of way, Lis pendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption, development rights, order/decree/judgment of the court or any liability or commitment or otherwise or demand of any nature whatsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned having their office at #468,INCHARA,1st floor, 4th main road, Nagendra block, near life care medicals-47,bangalore-560050 with in a period of 3(Three) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the claim or claims, if any of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client would be at liberty to proceed with the sale transaction in connection with the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item. No.	Survey No.	Extent		BOUNDARIES			
		Acre	Guntas	EAST BY	WEST BY	NORTH BY	SOUTH BY
1.	320		33	Sy.No.154	Sy.No.286	Sy.No.319	Sy.No.321
2.	321		35	Sy.No.154	Sy.No.286	Sy.No.320	Sy.No.322
3.	322	1	4	Sy.No.154	Sy.No.286	Sy.No.321	Sy.No.323
4.	323	1	1	Sy.No.154	Sy.No.286	Sy.No.322	Sy.No.324
5.	324		22	Sy.No.325	Sy.No.286	Sy.No.323	Doddakarenahalli village boundary
6.	325		22	Sy.No.326	Sy.No.324	Sy.No.323	Doddakarenahalli village boundary
7.	326	1	19	Sy.No.327	Sy.No.326	Sy.No.154	Doddakarenahalli village boundary
8.	327		37	Sy.No.327	Sy.No.325	Sy.No.154	Doddakarenahalli village boundary
9.	319		30	Sy.No.154	Sy.No.286	Sy.No.153	Sy.No.320

AJITH KASHYAP TN, Advocate
#468, INCHARA,1st Floor, 4th Main Road, Nagendra block, near life care medical-47, Bangalore-560050. Ph-9481305461 E-mail id-ajithkashyap93@gmail.com Dated-12/11/2025

AXIS BANK **PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION**
Public Notice for – E-Auction of pledged assets being Gold Ornaments

The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch.

The below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the **Axis Bank Limited** against the pledge of gold ornaments("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an e-auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on **17.11.2025 at 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis".**

Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount

Branch Name	Loan A/c No.	Customer Name	Amount Outstanding	Date of Demand Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
Bangarapet [K]	XXXXXXXXXX4260	Fazia	1,44,346.00	17-Oct-25	24.300	22.400
Channapatna [K]	XXXXXXXXXX4260	Asgar Ali	2,61,149.76	27-Jul-25	69.900	64.900
Channapatna [K]	XXXXXXXXXX2636	Ghowri Afsar Ali Khan	8,58,290.28	31-Jul-25	149.700	139.300
Channapatna [K]	XXXXXXXXXX3452	Shakir Mehdi	9,30,732.00	31-Jul-25	170.100	166.800
Devanahalli [K]	XXXXXXXXXX8104	Mahaboob Basha M	1,75,445.00	17-Oct-25	28.200	26.200
Dod Ballapur [K]	XXXXXXXXXX0546	M Umesh	52,857.11	17-Oct-25	12.700	12.100
Dod Ballapur [K]	XXXXXXXXXX5540	Uthsav N M	1,14,202.00	17-Oct-25	19.900	19.800
Electronic City [K]	XXXXXXXXXX8527	A Sarath Babu	5,73,641.67	27-Sep-25	114.000	110.400
Garvebhavipalya Kt	XXXXXXXXXX6684	Amith Suresh	98,258.79	17-Oct-25	15.700	15.500
J C Road [K]	XXXXXXXXXX3092	Nagendra S	9,26,811.02	27-Sep-25	164.800	150.700
J P Nagar [K]	XXXXXXXXXX8011	Deepa D	1,59,962.00	16-Jun-25	34.600	34.100
Jayanagar [K]	XXXXXXXXXX3306	Manjunath M	73,434.00	17-Oct-25	12.300	12.100
Kadugodi [K]	XXXXXXXXXX1716	Bhargav M	14,51,393.99	27-Sep-25	233.800	225.300
Kadugodi [K]	XXXXXXXXXX2600	Lokesh A	2,76,904.00	27-Sep-25	51.300	50.700
Kadugodi [K]	XXXXXXXXXX1162	Ramesh M	59,648.99	17-Oct-25	10.300	10.100
Malur [K]	XXXXXXXXXX6377	Rajanna .	2,76,820.00	06-Aug-25	169.300	160.300
Nelamangala [K]	XXXXXXXXXX1458	Asha H V	1,95,148.00	06-Aug-25	33.900	33.900
Prashanth Nagar [K]	XXXXXXXXXX5688	Gangadhara B	82,876.50	17-Oct-25	13.300	13.300
Ramanagara [K]	XXXXXXXXXX6898	Rudresh S	62,061.00	17-Oct-25	10.100	9.600
Ramanagara [K]	XXXXXXXXXX1018	Shobha .	1,87,402.00	06-Aug-25	39.040	35.990
Robertsonpet [K]	XXXXXXXXXX5580	P Ravi	1,18,932.49	17-Oct-25	27.900	26.900
Robertsonpet [K]	XXXXXXXXXX2610	Prabhakar N	1,55,486.17	17-Oct-25	23.500	23.400
Tiptur [K]	XXXXXXXXXX6821	Nadeem Pasha	3,13,131.41	16-Jun-25	62.750	61.850
Tumkur [K]	XXXXXXXXXX5173	Harish N R	32,988.38	17-Oct-25	19.200	18.000
Tumkur [K]	XXXXXXXXXX1709	Maruthi R	35,208.00	17-Oct-25	6.200	5.500
Vijayanagar [K]	XXXXXXXXXX3243	B Karthik	2,90,756.00	21-Jul-25	61.700	55.700
Vijayanagar [K]	XXXXXXXXXX9012	B Karthik	1,62,723.00	12-Sep-25	33.900	33.010
Whitefield Main [K]	XXXXXXXXXX3437	Bandhanadam Showri Lourdu Raju	47,924.00	17-Oct-25	8.400	8.100
Whitefield Main [K]	XXXXXXXXXX2680	Dhiraj Kumar	58,909.59	17-Oct-25	9.000	8.800
Whitefield Main [K]	XXXXXXXXXX0004	Subramani T	3,19,193.00	27-Sep-25	63.400	59.900
Whitefield Main [K]	XXXXXXXXXX8135	Usha J	4,33,666.00	17-Oct-25	70.600	67.600
Yelahanka [K]	XXXXXXXXXX1064	Bhumireddy Sreekanth Reddy	60,817.00	17-Oct-25	13.900	13.600

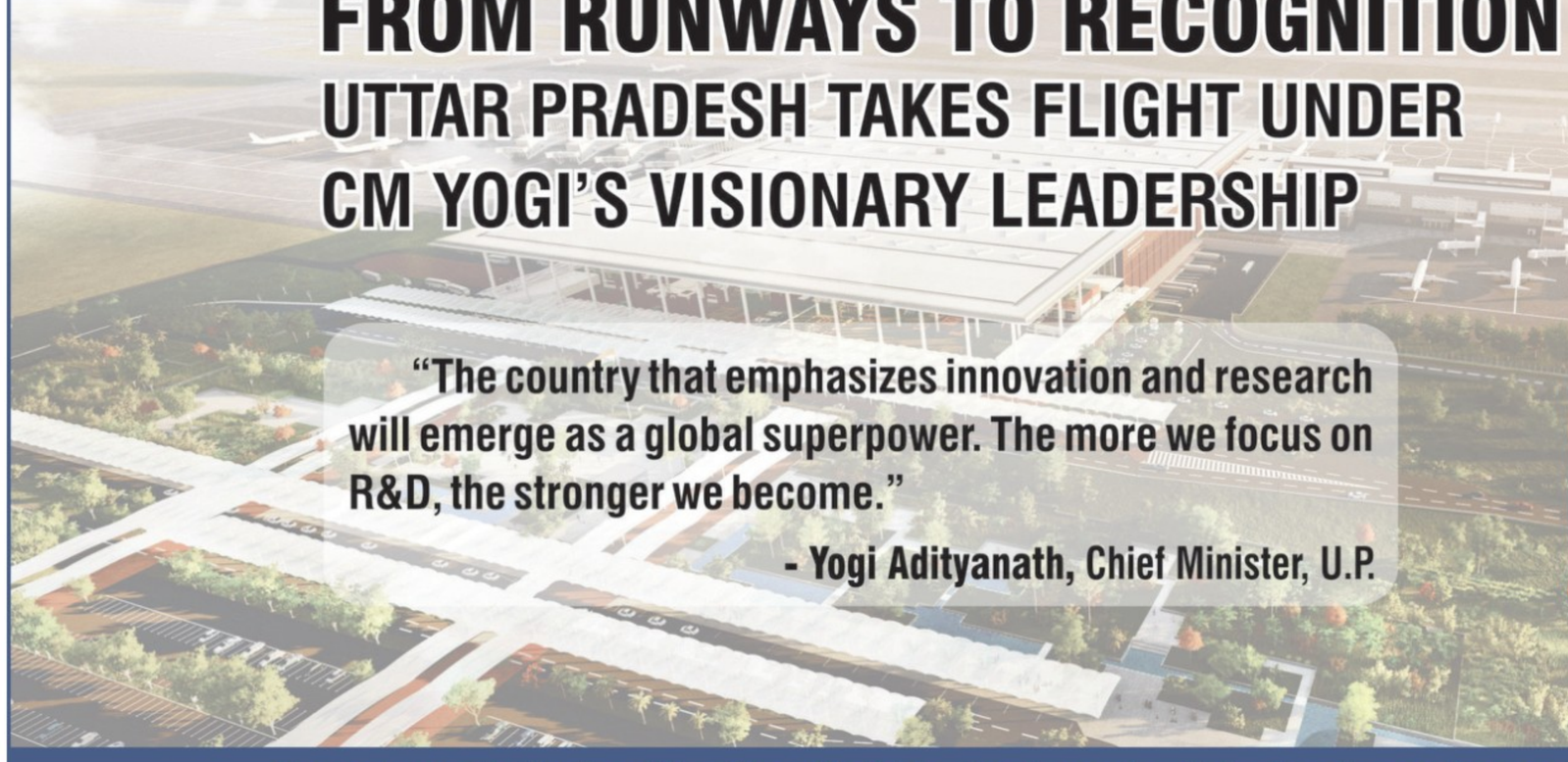
Axis Bank Ltd. has the authority to remove account/change the auction date without any prior notice. Auction will be held online https://gold.samil.in on 17.11.2025 between 12:30PM to 3:30PM.
For detailed Terms and conditions, please log into given website https://gold.samil.in (website of online vendor)

Place: Bangalore **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Axis Bank LTD.**

ADVERTISEMENT

UP RISING

FROM RUNWAYS TO RECOGNITION
UTTAR PRADESH TAKES FLIGHT UNDER CM YOGI'S VISIONARY LEADERSHIP



"The country that emphasizes innovation and research will emerge as a global superpower. The more we focus on R&D, the stronger we become."

- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

From Jewar's first calibration flight to Lucknow's global culinary fame, from innovation in classrooms to spiritual renewal in Kashi - Uttar Pradesh is scripting a new chapter of progress and pride

Under the dynamic leadership of **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath** and the visionary guidance of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi,** Uttar Pradesh today stands at the forefront of India's transformation. Be it **aviation infrastructure, cultural diplomacy, youth empowerment, judicial reform, or traditional crafts,** the state is setting new benchmarks of excellence and self-reliance.

Noida International Airport Soars Closer to Reality

Calibration Flight Lands Successfully - Operational Readiness Achieved

A major milestone was reached as a **calibration flight by the Airports Authority of India (AAI)** successfully landed at **Noida International Airport, Jewar.** This critical operation tested the accuracy of the airport's **Instrument Landing System (ILS)** and navigation infrastructure — a mandatory step before commercial operations begin.

Lucknow Garners Global Glory

UNESCO Names Lucknow a "Creative City of Gastronomy"

Lucknow's **Awadhi cuisine** rich with heritage, flavor, and royal elegance has earned global applause as **UNESCO designates the city a 'Creative City of Gastronomy.'** The recognition came on **World Cities Day** in Samarkand, highlighting Lucknow's role in promoting sustainable tourism through food and culture.

8.27 million
tourists in 2024

7.02 million
tourists in H1 2025

70
cities in UNESCO's network

FY 2024-25: ₹3.29 Cr.-27.7%
FY 2025-26: ₹**4.20 Cr.**(+27.7%)

KASHI
The Spiritual Heartbeat of India

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan and CM Yogi inaugurate new Natukottai Dharamshala

Kashi witnessed yet another **confluence of faith and culture** as Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, alongside CM Yogi Adityanath, inaugurated a ₹60 crore Dharamshala building — a symbol of the deep **Kashi–Tamil cultural bond.**

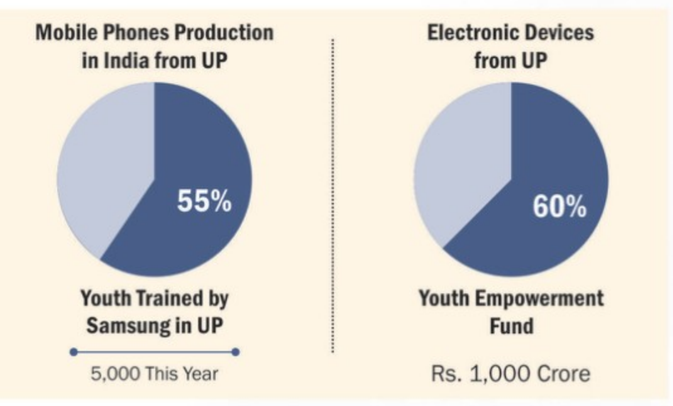
Symbol of Tamil – Kashi unity
• ₹60 crore Dharamshala inaugurated • 76 solar lamps for green energy

"Two karma yogis — Modi and Yogi — have transformed Kashi"
Vice President CP Radhakrishnan

Innovation Empowers Youth

1,300 students certified under Samsung Innovation Campus
UP's Young Minds Drive India's Digital Future

At a grand ceremony in **Gorakhpur**, CM Yogi distributed certificates to over 1,300 students trained under the **Samsung Innovation Campus**, encouraging them to become entrepreneurs and innovators.



"Technology must be used to simplify and enrich people's lives. The nation that leads in innovation and R&D will emerge as a global superpower."
- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

Governance & Tradition

Strengthening Justice, Ensuring Good Governance

Yogi government leads judicial reforms in Amrit Kaal

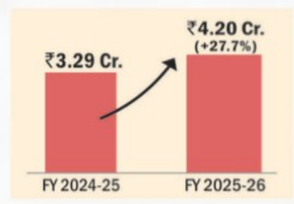
- Establishment of **380+ Fast-Track and POCSO Courts**
- **Integrated Court Complexes** in 10 districts
- **AI-based e-Courts and Cyber Law training**
- Unified digital platform linking **e-Court, e-Policing, e-Prosecution and e-Forensics**

"The stronger the judiciary, the easier it becomes to achieve good governance."
- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

Mati Kala Fairs Record ₹4.20 Crore Sales

Yogi government revives traditional pottery and artisans pride

With over **₹4.20 crore in sales** across 70 districts, the **Mati Kala Board** has revitalized the art of pottery, empowering thousands of artisans through marketing, branding, and direct consumer connection.



"Empowering our artisans isn't just about economics—it's about preserving our civilizational soul."
- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

Uttar Pradesh: From Tradition to Transformation

From **global runways to global recognition**, Uttar Pradesh is rising as the symbol of **New India's ambition & heritage.** With faith, reform, innovation, and empowerment the state under **CM Yogi Adityanath** is achieving unprecedented milestones across every sector.

"Uttar Pradesh is not just progressing it is leading India's journey towards becoming a global powerhouse."
- Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P.

M BG-BGE

HC directs govt. to develop unified and technology-driven platform for SWM

Court says that when technology offers tools for transparency and accountability, continued reliance on archaic methods is no longer tenable

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Flagging "unmanaged waste and recurring garbage black-spots" in the city and "persistent failure" of the authorities to effectively implement laws governing solid waste management (SWM), the High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to develop a unified, technology-driven, and accountable SWM framework within a year in a phased manner.

To track movement

The court ordered a shift from the present manual, opaque operations to a data-driven, transparent urban governance integrating technology system that also enables citizens to track movement of garbage collection and transport vehicles on a live and real-time basis.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued a series of directions while dismissing the petitions filed by B.S. Kiran Kumar and several other proprietors of firms engaged in the collection and the transport of garbage in the city.

The petitioners had challenged the legality of a fresh tender invited on July 30, 2025, by making manifold changes to the earlier tenders for garbage collection and disposal.

"Mere contractual arrangements for the collection and disposal of waste are insufficient. In an era where technology offers unprecedented tools for transparency and accountability, the continued reliance on archaic, non-transparent methods is no longer tenable. The integration of technology with robust administrative will and citizen participation can lead to transformative outcomes, in transforming the city's SWM system," the court said.

The court directed the Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA), along with each city corporations coming under the GBA, and the e-Governance Department, to start design, development, and implementation of a single, unified, and integrated digital platform for SWM with the principle 'one city, one platform' for all SWM-related interactions. This is to ensure a seamless and coherent experience for citizens, operators, and administrators alike. The platform should include digital dashboard, mobile application, Global Position System (GPS)-based tracking, weighbridge integration, and CCTV camera surveillance etc.," the court said.

Oversight committee

Directing the State Chief Secretary to constitute a nodal oversight and implementation committee for SWM surveillance within 15 days, the court said the committee, comprising various wings of the government, would be the single-point authority responsible for the comprehensive planning, procurement, installation, and operational oversight of the entire integrated SWM technology project as mandated in this order.

Ordering incorporation of a series of facilities in the digital platform, the court said it should also contain a city-wide live view facility, a comprehensive, Geographic Information System (GIS)- based map providing a 'single pane of glass' view of the entire SWM operation, displaying the real-time location and status of all SWM assets (vehicles, transfer stations, processing plants), and a powerful analytics module allowing officials to monitor key performance indicators from the city level down to the zone, ward, and individual vehicle level.

The court directed the committee to prepare a detailed project report and submit it to the court within six weeks.

Facilities to be built into new tech-based platform

Citizen Interface

- Ward-wise performance scorecards.
- Geo-tagged grievance reporting with mandatory citizen-verified closure.
- Educational materials on segregation and waste schedules

Enforcement and Redressal

- Violations of SWM norms to be detected via CCTV; evidence-based e-challans to be issued to violators.
- Citizens can view evidence and contest penalties.
- A two-tier Grievance Redressal Mechanism: Zonal Officer (first level); Nodal Committee (appeal)

Operational and administrative dashboard

- GIS-based route mapping and tracking.
- Automatic assignment of citizen complaints to field teams.
- Real-time citywide view of operations.
- Data analytics for performance, grievances, and waste processing.
- GPS/AVL on all waste vehicles.
- Real-time weighbridge data integration.
- Cloud-based CCTV with high-resolution

(4K) cameras for key waste points.

- Integration with weighbridges for accurate waste quantity tracking
- Contractor payments and penalties linked directly to digital performance metrics (e.g., GPS route adherence, tonnage delivered).
- Surveillance focused on public areas; private spaces strictly excluded.
- A Standard Operating Procedure must be framed within 90 days for SWM surveillance system
- Central Control Room operations.
- Public notification of surveillance through CCTV on streets blackspots, strict access control, and encryption.
- Prohibition on unlawful sharing of CCTV footages

HC gives nod for new garbage tender

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has given the green signal to the State government to go ahead with the tender invited on July 30, 2025, for SWM by dismissing the petitions filed by several contractors challenging certain terms of tender. Justice Suraj Govindaraj, in his order, said that change of the tender from ward-wise to multiple wards cannot be said to be arbitrary or unreasonable given the circumstances which have been taken into account by the tender issuing authority.

The court said the change in the financial/technical requirement will not come in the way of the petitioners coming together to submit their bid as a consortium. However, the court directed the government to extend till November 10 date for submission of bids to enable the petitioner to participate.

Man arrested for assaulting traffic policeman on duty

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Tilaknagar police have arrested the marketing manager of the Karnataka Milk Federation for allegedly assaulting a traffic policeman black and blue in full public view over a road rage incident at East end junction, Marenahalli road on Wednesday.

Based on a complaint filed by the policeman, Umashankar R., a case was booked against the accused, identified as Praveen T.S., charging him with attempt to murder, danger or obstruction in a public way or line of navigation, intentionally insulting someone to provoke a breach of public peace and wrongful restraint. According to the complaint, the accused was driving a car in a rash and negligent manner, taking an U-turn from the wrong side on the busy Bannerghatta road, knocking down a two-wheeler.

Umashankar, who was on duty, rushed to the spot, but the accused was allegedly rude and refused to move the car, blocking the traffic. This caused a huge traffic jam.

Umashankar tried to reason with Praveen, but the latter allegedly punched his face with a car key and started assaulting him black and blue. He allegedly hurled abuses at the policeman and threatened to kill him.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (November 07, Friday), the following explainers are available:

- Why the nomination process needs reform **newsth.live/nominationbiharexp**
- Karnataka's menstrual leave policy: progressive step or symbolic gesture? **newsth.live/menstrualleave**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Study on guarantees finds major gains for women's welfare and empowerment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A study by King's College London has found that Karnataka's five flagship Guarantee schemes - Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyothi, Anna Bhagya, Shakti, and Yuva Nidhi - have collectively improved women's financial autonomy, access to basic services, and overall household well-being across the State.

The report, titled 'From Guarantees to Rights: Assessing Karnataka's Experiment with Basic Income and Basic Services', is part of the Laws and Social Reproduction Project led by Prabha Kotiswaran and funded by the European Research Council.

According to a release, over the past 18 months, the study surveyed 2,045 women from 10 districts and conducted focus group discussions with 300 participants to analyse the social and economic impact of the schemes.

A file photo of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others at a function to implement guarantee schemes in Bengaluru.

The research revealed that the Gruha Lakshmi scheme offering ₹2,000 monthly to women heads of households had a transformative effect. Nearly all beneficiaries (99.8%) confirmed receiving the full amount, though 78% faced delays. According to the study, women reported higher control over finances, improved nutrition, increased savings, and greater confidence. Around 90% of recipients said the scheme enhanced their autonomy and reduced household stress, while 48% experienced fewer domestic conflicts.

Under Anna Bhagya, which provides free foodgrains, 95% of respondents preferred in-kind food support, linking it to better food diversity. The study stated that for Gruha Jyothi, 89% of women reported savings on electricity bills and 94% redirected those savings towards household needs, with many citing increased safety and reduced domestic violence.

The Shakti scheme offering free bus travel, 46% of respondents said it influenced their job decisions and 49% said it helped them travel for work or skill training.

Tenth-century inscription dating to Ganga dynasty reign found on outskirts of Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A 10th-century inscription from the Ganga dynasty reign has been found inside the Mahalingeshwara Temple at Nadanahalli on the outskirts of Mysuru.

The inscription, dating back to the time of Butuga II, a ruler from the dynasty, was discovered on the wall to the right and faces east inside the temple. The six-line inscription was carved on white granite which is two feet wide and two-and-a-half feet tall.

"This inscription, dated 948 A.D., is inscribed in the Kannada script. It is believed that during the reign of Butuga II, his bodyguard, Maremma, may have donated the garden to the temple tax-free and entrusted its management to the village chief Vijaketa Gavunda. The full text of the inscription cannot be stated as it is corrupted. However, since the inscription references 'Vijaketa Gavunda Dise', it can be inferred that the management of the garden was entrusted to Vijaketa Gavunda, the chief of the village," said a statement here. Further, the embossed painting of the temple is symbolically engraved on the inscription, confirming that it was a donation related to the temple, the statement added. "Since the Shiva Linga in the Mahalingeshwara Temple, where the inscription was found, is in the Ganga architectural style and the inscription is from the Ganga period, it can be understood that this donation is related to the Mahalingeshwara temple," the statement further said.

A 10th century inscription dating back to the period of the Ganga dynasty was found inside the Mahalingeshwara Temple on the outskirts of Mysuru.

An embossed sculpture of a cow feeding its calf is also carved at the end of the inscription, which is 1,076 years old.

After retired Deputy Commissioner of Police Shivanna informed archaeologist Prof N.S. Rangaraju, the fieldwork to discover the ancient inscription was started by a team led by archaeological researcher Dr. Shashidhara C.A.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, NOV. 07	
RISE 06:15	SET 17:52
RISE 19:34	SET 07:56
SATURDAY, NOV. 08	
RISE 06:15	SET 17:51
RISE 20:39	SET 09:05
SUNDAY, NOV. 09	
RISE 06:16	SET 17:51
RISE 21:45	SET 10:09

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	29	17
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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'We want bi-directional flow of talent, ideas and capital'

Hugh Brady, president, Imperial College, London, says there's opportunity for India and the U.K. through collaboration to get greater research and innovation scale and impact

INTERVIEW

Hugh Brady

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Imperial College London and Science Gallery Bengaluru (SGB) have announced a partnership to facilitate the exchange of talent and knowledge with the development of new facilities, a joint fellowship programme, and public engagement activities.

The announcement, made by Hugh Brady, President, Imperial College, on his visit to India as part of a UK delegation led by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, comes around five months following the launch of Imperial Global India in Bengaluru in May.

The Hindu caught up with Hugh Brady, who spoke in detail on what the partnership means for both countries.

Tell us more about the new partnership between Imperial College London and Science Gallery Bengaluru

What we're trying to do together is to create a cutting-edge hub of innovation between the U.K., India and the rest of the world. It will see us working together to develop new facilities in the Science Gallery Bengaluru, establish a new joint fellowship programme and develop a suite of public engagement programmes to do everything from inspiring young people to pursue a career in science and technology to helping build greater public trust in science.

We want bi-directional flow of talent, ideas and capital between the two innovation ecosystems. This partnership builds on the momentum that we've already achieved through our Imperial Global India Hub in Bengaluru. Imperial, Global India has gained very significant momentum in less than six months.

Does the new partnership come under the Imperial Global Hub India?

Yes. We will essentially colocate our global hub with the Science Gallery.

I must stress, our Bengaluru hub is a hub for India. So, while it builds on our very strong relationships with IISc and the National Centre for Biological Sciences, we are looking at other collaborative projects too. We've just launched our latest 10 collaborative projects seeded by our India Connect Fund. They address important areas such as climate, sustainability, emerging technologies, energy and health, and involve 10 Indian partners in Bangalore and across India.

An example of the projects that were funded this time is quantum modelling tools for climate adoption in arid lands. That's in collaboration with IIT Bombay. We've another on cultivating methane, removing microbes from trees to tackle climate change. That's with researchers in Pune. Another one is on various applications of nanorobots for biomedical purposes, with IISc Bangalore.

The India-UK ties seem to be currently at one of the strongest points ever. What would collaborations in research, technology and innovation mean for both countries in this context?

There's opportunity for both countries through collaboration to get greater research and innovation scale and impact. You would see many more collaborative PhD programmes in key areas such as quantum, engineering, biology, biotechnology and clean tech. You would see many more larger research programmes developing between the two countries and a much stronger bridge between the two innovation ecosystems.

We're already starting to bring our student founders, who want to learn more about the Indian market - here, to co-create and innovate with Indian partners, and to give young Indian entrepreneurs an entrance point into the UK's innovation ecosystem. At a time when so many parts of the world are starting to look inwards, it's fantastic that India and the UK are looking outwards.

Are there particular technologies or streams of science that the new partnership would focus on?

Both Imperial and our partners at Science Gallery Bengaluru are inspired by the potential to harness science and technology to tackle the grand challenges facing kind of humanity and our planet. That ranges from antimicrobial resistance through to food security and water security.

We are also conscious of the strength of the UK-India relationship. Both prime ministers attach great importance to the Technology Security Initiative.

There are areas where we think we can make a real difference by working with Indian partners, such as Science Gallery.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Rowdy-sheeter, associates nabbed after high drama

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kalasipalya police nabbed a 25-year-old rowdy-sheeter and two of his associates amid high drama in S.R. Krishnappa Garden on Wednesday.

The accused, Shazad Pasha, who has over five criminal cases pending against him, had jumped bail and was on the run. He was tracked down with two of his associates, Yaseen Shariff and Anas Pasha. The court had issued a non-bailable warrant against the accused.

The main accused, Shazad Pasha, who has over five criminal cases pending against him

Based on a tip-off, the team, comprising assistant sub-inspector Srinivasamurthy, went to secure his arrest and surrounded him. They asked him to surrender, but the trio allegedly resisted and tried to flee. In a bid to escape, Anas allegedly pulled out a machete and hit himself shouting at Shazad and Yaseen, while charging at the police party. The team overpowered Anas and chased and pinned down Shabaz and Yaseen. They were bundled to the Tilak Nagar police station, and a case was filed against the trio under the Arms Act.

Cartoon exhibition by Ravikanth Nandula

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Institute of Cartoonists is hosting an exhibition titled *Pocket*, featuring a selection of the best works by Ravikanth Nandula, cartoonist with *The Hindu BusinessLine*.

It will be held from November 15 to 30 at the Indian Cartoon Gallery, No. 1, Midford House, Midford Garden, off M.G. Road, Trinity Circle, Bengaluru. The event will be inaugurated by K. Venugopal, Chairman of Kasturi and Sons Ltd. Visitors can view it Monday to Saturday, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Sports event

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Anantha Academy for Special Education will host 'Go Krida: Sports Ka Keeda', an inter-school sports fest for children with disabilities, on Saturday from 8.30 a.m. at VIBGYOR High School, HSR Layout.

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
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METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

Tender No. **CMRL-RSP-SRM-DRMD-003-2025**
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

CMRL invites online bids for the tender **"Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of LED backlit LCD based Dynamic Route Map Display (DRMD) system in 52 trains of CMRL Phase-1"**. Tender documents can be downloaded from **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** or **https://chennaimetrorail.org**

For Managing Director
Chief General Manager (RS,S&T)
Chennai Metro Rail Limited

DIPR/ 6027 /TENDER/2025

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Director General of Police, C.I.D, Special Units and Economic Offences, Carlton House, Palace Road, Bangalore – 560 001,

No.01/STS-1/CCD&CIDUpgradation/CID/2025-26 Dated: 06/11/2025

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

30 days E-Tenders are invited in "Two Cover System" as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and rules, 2000 through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) for the supply/maintenance of below mentioned Softwares/Components under "Upgradation of Cyber Crime Division, CID" Scheme & "House Keeping & Plumbing Services for CID Office" for the use of C.I.D, Bangalore.

Sl. No.	Name of the Item/ Component	Qty	Approximate Cost in Rs.	Last date for bid submission
"Upgradation of Cyber Crime Division, CID" Scheme				
1	High end Workstation	02 No's	₹ 40,00,000/-	04.12.2025 at 17-00 Hours
2	Digitization & Archiving	01 No.	₹ 80,00,000/-	
"House Keeping & Plumbing Services for CID Office"				
3	House Keeping & Plumbing Services for CID Office	-	₹ 41,19,000/-	29.11.2025 at 17-00 Hours

In order to participate in e-Procurement platform all the intended Tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement portal. A training program in e-Procurement is organized by e-Procurement Cell. The Tenderers who participate in the e-Procurement Tender can take assistance with e-Procurement helpdesk at 080-46010000, 080-68948777. It is mandatory for Tenderers to register in e-Procurement platform.

Please visit https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in for more information or call Helpline 080-46010000, 080-68948777.

For Director General of Police, CID, Special Units and Economic Offences, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/3632/AKAR/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT
Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. 751001

RFP No. 12839 /COOP. Dated : 04.11.2025

Selection of a consulting agency for Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) under PMFBY in Cooperation Department

1. Special Secretary to Govt., Cooperation Department, (The Client) invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from the eligible bidders for selection of a consulting agency for setting of a PMU under PMFBY in Cooperation Department, Govt. of Odisha.
2. The last date of receipt of Proposal (Bid) by Speed Post is **27.11.2025 (5.00 PM)**.
3. Scope of work, eligibility requirement and other details may be seen in the website of Cooperation Department ***https:/coop.odisha.gov.in***. The RFP document may be downloaded from the above website.

Sd/-
Special Secretary to Government
Cooperation Department

LL-21:

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (TIDCO)
No.19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008
Phone-+91-044-28554479,28554480 E-mail: hr@tidco.com
Website: https://tidco.com/ https://careers.tidco.com

Recruitment Notification

Notification No.TIDCO/HR/Recruitment/2025-4 **Dated: 07.11.2025**

Applications are invited for the following post only through online mode from 08.11.2025 at 10.00 am to 24.11.2025 upto 5.00 pm from the eligible candidates who wish to join the services in Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO).

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of vacancy	Compensation	Mode of Recruitment
1.	**Consultant - Startup Engagement Lead**	One (1)	Rs.1.50 Lakh (Net CTC is (Negotiable) depending on the experience and qualification). (TDS and other statutory deductions, as applicable)	On Contract basis

For the detailed notification, qualification, experience, selection process, online application and other details, please visit our official website **https://tidco.com / https://careers.tidco.com**

MANAGING DIRECTOR
TIDCO

DIPR/1321/Display/2025

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(TIDCO)
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327

e-TENDER NOTICE

NIT.No. TIDCO/TANSAM/ 2025–26 **Date: 07.11.2025**

Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited has established a few Centres of Excellence in Emerging Technologies. One of them being the Tamil Nadu Smart and Advanced Manufacturing centre (TANSAM) in collaboration with Siemens. TIDCO intends to onboard an agency for operation and maintenance of TANSAM.

Interested firms can download the Tender document from the website **https://tidco.com** and **https://tntenders.gov.in** with free of cost.

The schedule for the bidding process is as follows:-

1. Pre-bid meeting at **3.00 PM on 14.11.2025** @ TIDCO Office
2. Last date and time for submission of Proposals/ Bids is on or before **3.00 PM on 05.12.2025** through **https://tntenders.gov.in**
3. Opening of Technical Proposals / Bids is at **5.00 PM on 05.12.2025** at TIDCO Office.

Managing Director
Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited
19-A, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008. Phone No – 044 28554421
E-mail: cmd@tidco.com, Website: https://tidco.com

DIPR/6030/TENDER/2025

CPCL
PRESENTS
THE HINDU
sustainability summit 2025
Co-presented by
TNGCC
THE HINDU GROUP

Scripting Tomorrow's Sustainable Story

Today at 10:00 AM

IN THE PRESENCE OF

Thiru. H Shankar
Managing Director,
Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL)

Thiru. Srivats Ram
Immediate Past Chairman,
CII Tamil Nadu,
Managing Director, Wheels India

Session 1: 10:50 am - 11:20 am

Fireside Chat: Balancing Growth and Green - CPCL's Sustainability Journey.

Panelists:
Mr H Shankar, Managing Director, CPCL

Moderator: **Mr N Ravi Kumar,**
Senior Deputy Editor - Reporting, The Hindu

Session 2: 11:25 am - 12:25 pm

Panel: Water for Tomorrow - Sustainable Management and Industrial Responsibility: Strategies for Conservation, Reuse and Sustainable Water Management.

Panelists:
Dr Ravikumar, Professor & Director,
Centre for Water Resources, Anna University
Mr P Kannan, Director Operations, CPCL
Dr T G Vinay IAS, Managing Director, CMWSS Board, Government of Tamil Nadu
Mr Navin Kumar, Managing Director, Navin's

Moderator: **Ms K Lakshmi,** Deputy Editor - Reporting, The Hindu

Session 3: 12:30 pm - 01:00 pm

Fireside Chat: Greening Tamil Nadu - The State's Climate Action and Environmental Stewardship.

Panelists:
Tmt. Supriya Sahu - IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Government of Tamil Nadu

Moderator: **Ms Ramya Kannan,** Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), The Hindu

Lunch Break: 01:05 pm - 02:25 pm

Session 4: 02:30 pm - 03:30 pm

Panel: Clean Tech for a Sustainable Tomorrow - Accelerating Innovation in Clean Technologies to Reduce Emissions and Energy Footprints.

Panelists:
Mr Kiran Ananth, Deputy Executive Director, CII, Godrej Green Business Centre
Mr Shiva Nagendra, Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras
Mr Santosh Kumar Singh, Chief Sustainability Officer, L&T
Ms Sumitra Vasudevan, Associate Partner, APROBuild

Moderator: **Ms Geetha Srimathi,** Senior Reporter, The Hindu

Session 5: 03:35 pm - 04:35 pm

Panel: Policy & Governance for Climate Action - How Regulation, Incentives, and Public-Private Collaboration can Accelerate Sustainable Growth.

Panelists:
Mr Sultan Ahmed Ismail, Member, State Planning Commision, Government of Tamil Nadu
Mr Girish Palwe, IFS, Assistant Mission Director, Tamil Nadu Climate Change Mission, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Tamil Nadu
Ms Jayanthi Raju Vadivelu, Consulting Director, Corporate Sustainability & Climate Change, ERM
Mr Rohit Kumar Agarwala, Director Finance, CPCL

Moderator: **Mr Kunal Shankar,** Deputy Business Editor, The Hindu

Session 6: 04:40 pm - 05:40 pm

Panel: Energy Transition in India: The Road Ahead - How Oil & Gas, Renewables, and Emerging Fuels can Coexist in the Journey Towards Net Zero.

Panelists:
Ms Anita Shrivastava, Chief General Manager, IOCL
Ms Shaivee Malik, Co-Founder and COO, Yotuh Energy
Mr Harish Palani, Senior Research Specialist, WRI
Mr Ravi Ganapathy, Regional Director - ESG Solutions, GovEVA

Moderator: **Mr Kunal Shankar,** Deputy Business Editor, The Hindu

Session 7: 05:45 pm - 06:45 pm

Panel: Financing the Green Transition: The Role of Sustainable Capital - How Banks, Investors, and Green Finance Mechanisms can Accelerate Renewable Energy, Clean Tech, and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure.

Panelists:
Mr Vivekanandhan, Lead - ESG & Sustainable Finance function, Samunnati Finance.
Mr Shravan Shankar, Co-founder, Climake
Ms Gita Chengappa, General Manager, TREC-STEP

Moderator: **Mr N Ravi Kumar,** Senior Deputy Editor - Reporting, The Hindu

Scan to Join the Live Event:
https://newsth.live/SS2025LS

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
2025035	DIP Screw Press Sludge with Sedimator Rejects.	24.11.2025
252613 005489	Supply of Derbarked Senna Pulpwood from open market sources of Tamilnadu to TNPL Unit-I at Kagithapuram.	21.11.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL website only. For further details please visit website **www.tnpl.com**

DIPR/6015/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

Sri Venkateswara Swamy vari Devastanam
Dwaraka Tirumala (Chinna Tirupathi) Eluru Dist-534426. Ph: 08829-271427
Website: www.dwarakatirumala.org, e-mail: eo_dwarakatirumala@yahoo.co.in

Computer No.50924 - REV65/34/2023-C2, Dt: 06-11-2025 (5th Call)

E-Tender / Sealed Tender / Public Auction for collection of Human Hair right for 2 years i.e for the period from 13.11.2025 to 12.11.2027. Public auction will be conducting on 18.11.2025 at Paduka Mandapam. **Required Documents: 1. Aadhar Card, 2. Pan Card, 3. Last three years IT returns (2022-23, 23-24 and 24-2025)** **The Tender Details as 1.** EMD Rs.1,00,00,000/- to be paid in the form of D.D in favor of Executive Officer, Sri Venkateswara Swamyvari Devastanam, Dwarakatirumala, **2.** Tender Schedule issued from Dt: 08.11.2025 to 15.11.2025 10 am to 5 pm, **3.** Sealed Tender Participation Dt: 18.11.2025 10 am to 11 pm, **4.** E-Procurement **www.apeprocurement.gov.in.** login starts from Dt: 08.11.2025.

Note: for further information please contact leases section in office timings: Contact Numbers: 63003 88355, 84650 44484.

Sri S.V.Sudhakara Rao
Chairman & Founder Trustee

Sd/- **N.V.S.N. Murthy**
Joint Commissioner & Executive Officer

IN THE HON'BLE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT NELAMANGALA
O.S. No. 96/2021

PLAINTIFF: Sri Venkatesh -V/s-
DEFENDANTS: Sri Shivabala Swamy @ Shivanna

1. Sri Shivabala Swamy @ Shivanna, residents of Ambaliapúra village, Jadigenahalli post, Hosakote taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562114.

NOTICE

The plaintiff has filed the above suit against the defendant for the relief of recovery of money. The plaintiff had taken out suit summons to defendant through R.P.A.D. But the same could not be served on upon him as he left the address to avoid the service of notice in the above suit. The plaintiff is not aware of his present address. is taken out to serve the notice of the suit to the defendant as stated above. The matter stands posted on **15-12-2025** for the appearance of defendant. Failing to appear on the said date personally or through counsels, both of you will be placed exparte and the matter will be proceeded with as exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of this court on 12-09-2025 at Nelamangala.

By order of the court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Court of the Civil Judge and JMFC Nelamangala.

DHANAJAYA, Advocate
#1079/A, 1st floor, Dr. Rajkumar road, Prakashnagara, Bangalore-560 021.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION MANAGEMENT (MANAGE)
(An Autonomous Organization of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030, Telangana, India.

MANAGE-Fisheries Innovation and Startup Hub (MANAGE–FISHub) invites students, rural youth, innovators, aspiring entrepreneurs and Startup founders to participate in the following national-level programs fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in the Fisheries sector: MANAGE Aqua-Eureka Program (National Innovation Challenge in Fisheries), Pre-Incubation Mentoring Program for Fishery Startups, MANAGE-FISHub Incubation Program, and Fisheries Fortnightly Friday (F3) Webinars.

For details and registration, please visit:
www.manage.gov.in/managefishub/RecentUpdates.aspx

Sd/-
DIRECTOR (Agricultural Extension)

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | thehindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

Advantage private varsities

While AICTE permission is mandatory for government, aided and private engineering colleges to start new courses and enhancement of seats, policy loopholes are leading to an imbalance in engineering seats in Karnataka with private universities having no such obstacles, writes **Jayanth R.**

SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Details of engineering courses seats allocation

Colleges type	Number of Colleges	Total seats	KEA intake	COMEDK Intake	Management quota seats
Government engineering/VTU constituent colleges	27	6,495	0	0	0
Government courses public universities		760	760	0	0
Architecture seats in government/public university		40	38	0	0
Seats in government colleges with higher fees		395	395	0	0
Aided engineering colleges	9	2,950	2,773	18	159
Private unaided minority colleges	16	10,680	4,272	3,204	3,204
Architecture seats private unaided colleges		1,390	595	417	347
Architecture seats in private universities		260	103	0	152
Private engineering colleges	150	95,366	42,945	28,592	23,829
Deemed universities		2,280	764	0	1,516
Private universities	27	33,300	13,366	0	19,972
Total	229	1,53,916	72,506	32,231	49,179

It has been a month since the Common Entrance Test (CET-2025) counselling for admission to engineering courses for 2025-26 concluded. But, of the 150 seats available in the Computer Science Engineering (CSE) branch in our college, 40 seats are still vacant. Even though the fee for these seats is the same as the government quota seat, no student is coming forward,lamented the head of a private engineering college in a tier-3 city in the Kalyana Karnataka region.

The principal of a government engineering college in a district neighbouring Bengaluru said, "Even though the government has reduced fees for civil, mechanical and other traditional engineering courses this time, the seats are still vacant."

In contrast, thousands of engineering seats have been filled in private universities in most of the tier-1 and tier-2 cities of Karnataka, and these institutions have also taken steps to fill additional seats. This has given rise to allegations that "discriminatory policies" being applied by the State government to private universities and government, aided and private engineering colleges are the reason for the huge gap in the filling of engineering seats.

Sources allege that the government is allowing private universities to start new courses and enhance the number of seats in existing courses without any obstacles and they have also been given relaxation from obtaining All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) permission. AICTE permission is mandatory for government, aided and private engineering colleges to start new courses and enhancement of seats.

As a result, private universities have taken steps to fill their seats quickly without waiting for the government's permission every year, resulting in most students enrolling in private universities. Meanwhile, government, aided and private engineering colleges are lagging behind while complying with AICTE norms.

While a total of 95,366 engineering seats are available in 150 private engineering colleges in the State, 27 private universities account for another 33,300 engineering seats. On the one hand, there is mushrooming of engineering colleges in tier-1 cities like Bengaluru, Mysuru and others. On the other hand, colleges in tier-2 and tier-3 cities are facing the threat of closure without students.

Seat matrix

There are a total of 229 engineering colleges in the State for 2025-26, of which 27 are government and constituent colleges of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), nine are aided engineering colleges, 16 are private minority colleges, 150 are private engineering colleges, two are deemed universities and 27 are private universities.

A total of 1,53,916 engineering seats are available in these colleges, of which 72,506 seats are filled through the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

The remaining 32,231 are COMED-K seats and 49,179 are management quota seats.

Of these, all the seats in government engineering colleges are government quota seats and are filled through the CET by the KEA. In private and aided colleges, 45% of the government quota seats are filled through KEA, 30% seats through COMED-K and the remaining 25% are management quota seats.

> If private universities just show fancy buildings and increase seats abnormally, the quality of education will be hit. Enhancement of 3,000 to 5,000 seats will kill the spirit of technical education
>
> **SANGAPPA B.S.**
> National Executive Council Member of ISTE, New Delhi

Private universities have given 40% of the seats to the government and the remaining 60% are filled through entrance exams conducted by the universities or other central institutions such as the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

With the AICTE being the apex body of all technical courses in India, it is mandatory for government, aided and private engineering colleges to get permission from AICTE to start new branches and increase seats.

According to the AICTE norms, the student-teacher ratio should be 1:20 in all technical institutions and for 60 students, there should be one professor, 3 associate professors and 8 assistant professors (1:3:8 ratio).

In this, the professor and associate professor should have done Ph.D., in their subject concerned. And, the assistant professors should have passed BE or M.Tech with first class.

The infrastructure related to the building, toilets, library, laboratory and other facilities must be mandatory. And, for example, there should be one computer for every 10 students (1:10) in the CSE lab.

While all government, aided and private engineering colleges are to adhere to these rules, private universities having about 20 acres of land, necessary infrastructure and teaching and non-teaching staff can be run by getting permission from University Grants Commission (UGC). The State government has exempted these universities from getting permission from AICTE to start new colleges, courses and enhancement of seats.

The universities have been allowed to operate after getting permission from UGC and a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the government of Karnataka. Acts have been passed by the State Legislature to allow each private university to function in Karnataka since 2010, when the first such university was established.

Decisions on all issues, including infrastructure, starting new courses, examination system, fee fixation, increase in seats and others are taken in the Board of Governors (BoG) meetings. They are then submitted to the Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), which appoints an expert committee, examines the university concerned, and issues an NOC.

Because of the exemption given to them, these universities have enhanced seats in large numbers, especially in the CSE branch.

For example, in one private university in Bengaluru, there are a total of 4,320 engineering seats available in six branches for the first year engineering courses, of which 4,020 are for CSE and related courses alone. In another, of the 3,420 engineering seats available, 2,400 seats are related to CSE. Of the total 2,640 seats available in 11 branches in yet another college in the city, 1,620 seats are for CSE engineering. Of the total 3,600 seats available in a private university college in south Bengaluru, 2,340 seats are for CSE.

In sharp contrast, the number of CSE seats available in 17 government engineering colleges across the State is no more than 640.

The exemption for AICTE norms for private universities has riled many.

> There is a need to freeze the enhancement of CSE seats to prevent the mushrooming of private engineering colleges in tier-1 cities and regulate private universities
>
> **M.C. SUDHAKAR**
> Higher Education Minister

"Even if we admit one additional seat in our colleges, VTU and the Department of Technical Education (DTE) do not give approval. All government, management and COMED-K seats enrolment will be scrutinised. However, the government is not scrutinising 60% of the seats in private universities. There is a policy in government degree colleges that no student should be sent back without admission. The same is being followed in private universities. They admit any student who comes. Due to this, admissions in all other engineering colleges are being hit," alleged the principal of a government engineering college.

Prof. Sangappa B.S., National Executive Council Member of the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE), New Delhi, said, "Out of 27 private universities in Karnataka, only three have taken AICTE approval. If they just show fancy buildings and increase seats abnormally, the quality of education will be hit. Enhancement of 3,000 to 5,000 seats will kill the spirit of technical education." he argued.

"Due to the non-availability of qualified faculty, not all private universities have teachers who meet UGC and AICTE standards. In addition, private universities do not follow the teacher-student ratio. For example, colleges with about 2,500 CSE seats require a total of 125 people to teach CSE subject. However, no university has recruited so many teachers. Our organisation has given a representation to the Union Education Ministry and UGC to regulate private universities," he said.

How large intake impacts quality

According to the principal of a leading private engineering college, "The quality of education in colleges with a large intake cannot be up to the mark. The available laboratories and computers will not be adequate for all the students. In addition, it will not be possible to provide adequate skill to such a large number of students. Ultimately, campus placement will also be affected and it will increase unemployment."

He said that engineering colleges under VTU have a separate curriculum approved by AICTE. "Will candidates who have studied the curriculum of private universities without AICTE approval get recognition in foreign companies?"

On the other hand, the principal of a top engineering college in Bengaluru sought to make out a case for increase in the number of seats is essential to meet the Union Government's aim of increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio to 50% in the next 10 years.

"Recently, AICTE has made many changes in its rules and is allowing government and private engineering colleges to increase seats by 500 to 600. As there are more software companies in Bengaluru, the job prediction is also high. Therefore, all private colleges and private universities have taken steps to increase CSE seats. Placement is also increasing in Information Technology (IT) sector. To overcome shortage of faculty, the AICTE has allowed the recruitment of professors of practice (industry professionals). Colleges can recruit up to 20% professors of practice," he explained.

Action to regulate

The government of Karnataka is considering enacting a law on the model of Telangana to curb the mushrooming of engineering colleges in tier-1 cities, increase of seats in branches like CSE and to regulate private universities.

In recent years, 12 Higher Educational Institutions submitted a proposal to the government of Karnataka for setting up private universities. Of these, eight were granted permission during the previous BJP government, but the State government has not issued an official order yet. As the State government has decided to change the rules for granting permission to private universities, all these applications have been put on hold for now.

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar told *The Hindu*, "There is a need to freeze the enhancement of CSE seats to prevent the mushrooming of private engineering colleges in tier-1 cities and regulate private universities. We are planning to bring rules on the Telangana model."

"Last year, the Telangana government imposed restrictions on the enhancement of CSE seats in private engineering colleges. This was challenged by some private engineering college managements in the High Court there. It is learnt that the court, which upheld the Telangana government's action, has dismissed the petition of the private engineering colleges," he said.

Government engineering colleges are unable to fill seats, while private universities in most of the tier-1 and tier-2 cities of Karnataka have not only filled thousands of seats but have also taken steps to accommodate additional seats.
PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

Sambar with style

With a new wave of casual dining restaurants, South Indian cuisine is getting a makeover, packaged in a smarter avatar. We speak to the people behind new age darshinis

Anagha Maareesha
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The humble darshini of Bengaluru is changing.

Like thousands of others in Bengaluru, most days I head out to a local darshini near my office to grab a quick lunch. It is a simple affair of dosas, idlis, or full meals and reliable filter coffee on good old steel tables. Something Bengaluru has been doing right for decades now. The last time I was there a young man approached me, saying he wanted to take pictures for the darshini's social media page. A darshini chasing after Instagram likes is a new phenomenon! It got us thinking about how this humble eatery is evolving with the times, with modern aesthetics, marketing strategies and updated menus.

"You cannot be old school anymore," says Aashish Lunawat, the owner of Bangalore Thindies. The small QSR restaurant chain has outlets across the city and is popular not only for the food, but also its cleanliness. Their Instagram page has 7,000 followers and stands out with creatively edited videos and trending memes. "There was a time when there was no social media, but nowadays 50 to 60% of businesses run because of their presence on social media."

Grub on the go (From left) Places such as The Filter Coffee, The Rameshwaram Cafe and Extra Chutney have given the humble darshini a makeover. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

What changed the game

Love it or hate it, The Rameshwaram Cafe changed the game for the cuisine. It has become the face of QSR dining in Bengaluru and the place tourists head to first, to get a taste of the city's cuisine, even if locals may have other picks. The cafe was started in 2021 by Divya and Raghavendra Rao, and it has outlets in Indiranagar, JP Nagar, Brookfield and other popular locations.

"When we opened Rameshwaram Cafe in 2021 we went with a quick service concept because Bengaluru is a fast-moving city with a huge working population. There are many darshinis, but what we did differently was looking at a younger crowd and adapting to their mindset, especially with our presentation. Hygiene was a main concern of ours too," Divya says. Special attention is paid to details such as food served on banana leaves and the fragrance of sambrani wafting in the restaurant. Their ghee-laden dosas being made in open kitchens took off on social media. From *Game of Thrones* actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau's visit, to serving food at the Ambani wedding, the cafe is always in the headlines.

Thirtha, their new restaurant on Cunningham Road, uses the same quick service concept but gives it another twist. Instead of only south Indian cuisine, it offers a menu that spans the whole country with dishes such as vada pav and sandwiches.

Not just about the food

Priyanka NPR is a doctor by profession but started the restaurant Extra Chutney because food is her passion. "We wanted to give a modern feel to a darshini," she says. The restaurant has a chic and quirky aesthetic, and though a small space, can accommodate 40 diners.

What sets it apart is the unique chutney concept. "We were entering a market that was already cluttered so we needed a differentiator," Priyanka says. The restaurant makes a special chutney daily. The chutney is hand pounded in old school stone grinders in front of diners. Not only is the chutney fresh, but it also adds an element of fun for social media.

"Every day we have a new chutney. It could be a *heerekayi* (ridged gourd) chutney, *dondakaya* (ivy gourd) chutney, cabbage pachadi, or a capsicum coconut chutney. It depends on what is in season." The menu has idli, dosas and pulaos. They have included some dishes from Andhra and Tamil Nadu.

Sankrit Iyer, co-founder of The Filter Coffee, started the restaurant chain as a hole-in-the-wall set-up in Kalyan Nagar. Today it has nine outlets in areas such as Koramangala, Indiranagar and Brookfield. "We found that there was a great demand for people who wanted to eat good south Indian food at a reasonable price. That is where the story began."

"When I am eating out alone, I do not mind standing and eating it. But when I am with my family I would like to sit down and enjoy my meal. I wanted to extend that to our guests."

He credits the brand's success to being product oriented. They give balanced, healthy meals that are cooked in clean kitchens. The menu has a mix of dishes from all south Indian States. "We will abide by these philosophies. Our food is not indulgent. There is no colour, no extra butter or ghee. That ends up masking the real taste of the food." He says the simple style of food is also balanced with a good mix of carbs and protein.

Diners today discover new places to eat through social media. And old school restaurants are upping their games to keep up. Bengaluru, after all, is a city of innovation.

Playing with the past

The National Cultural Pythian Game to be held from November 7 to 9 is an attempt to revitalise an ancient tradition

Honouring sports and art A previous edition of the games. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The second edition of the National Cultural Pythian Games will be held at Bengaluru City University from November 7 to 9. The event is modelled on games which used to be held in ancient Greece, and is being organised by the Pythian Council of India.

According to Bijender Goel, the founder of Modern Pythian Games, "We are revitalising a practice forgotten for more than 1,600 years. When arts, culture, and sports converge as a worldwide movement, they transcend competition; they become a universal expression of peace, creativity, and cultural unity."

According to the event's release, "Following the success of the first National Cultural Pythian Games 2024 in Panchkula, this Bengaluru edition promises to be even more spectacular, drawing over 2,000 participants from over 10 states and Union Territories," it states.

The games are expected to bring in artistes, performers, athletes, and cultural enthusiasts from across the country, with competitions and showcases spanning diverse categories, including music, dance, singing, poetry, drawing, painting, rangoli and silambam.

"Hosting the National Cultural Pythian Games 2025 in Bengaluru is a strategic and symbolic choice," says Shantanu Agrahari, President, Pythian Council of India. Describing Bengaluru as a cosmopolitan and culturally vibrant city that reflects the blend of heritage and modernity of today's India, he adds, "By bringing the Pythian Games here, we are connecting South India's rich legacy to a national and global platform, empowering its youth, artistes, and traditional practitioners to shine on the world stage."

To know more, log into https pythiangames.org

A portrait of the actor

Theatre personality Prasanna H on his collection of digital pencil sketches, Playing with Life

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A few years ago, noted theatre director and playwright Prasanna "Heggodu" took a vow that he would not travel by air "for my own environmental reasons." At around the same time, he also took to the iPad, realising that the pencil it came with enabled him to draw like a woodcut. So, he began taking his iPad along, creating art on it as he travelled.

'Playing with Life', a striking blend of both abstraction and representation, which was recently held in the city, draws on his half-century-long tryst with theatre.

"I am visually driven as a performer, as an actor-trainer," says the founder of Karnataka's celebrated amateur theatre group Samudaya and the national president of the Indian People's Theatre Association (IPTA).

"I've been living the life of a designer in several fields... have designed theatre halls, costumes and sets."

Additionally, in his other avatar, as the founder of Charaka, a Heggodu-based handloom cooperative owned and managed by women, "I've designed fabrics and prints, too. So it is in me."

The art of theatre An artwork from the series Playing with Life; Prasanna (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The aesthetic of the artworks, "black and white lines and shapes," too, stems from theatre, says Prasanna, the author of *Indian Method in Acting* and *Acting and Beyond*.

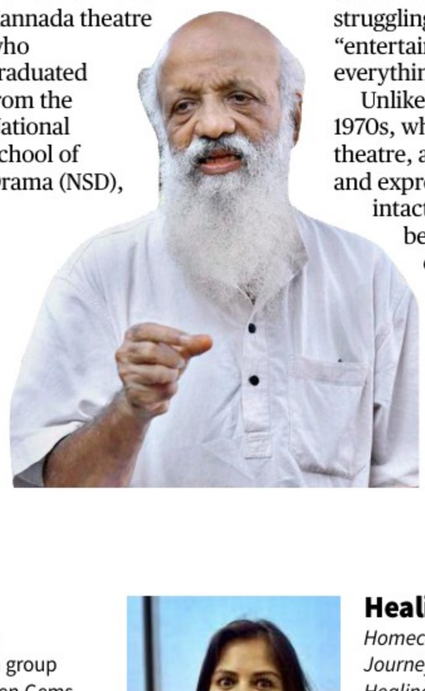
"Human shape and emotions are what I have been doing endlessly for the last 50 years. Even if I see a shape on the wall where water has dripped, I can see a whole world in it."

The figurative images in his art, whether they be human, animal or blossom, nearly always lock eyes with each other, also a theatrical tactic because, "there is no drama if your character is not looking into the eyes of the other character," he says. "So the influence of theatre on these drawings is immense."

His creation method, he admits, is "crazy". "I fill the canvas with all sorts of images and then make connections," he says, walking across to a print of a priest carefully tending a fire, a few yards away from a tree. When he first created this image, putting in all these elements, he "was sure it wasn't complete."

It was only when Prasanna returned to the picture, nearly a month later, that he realised what it should be, and added letters representing mantras. "The final ideological content comes last," he says.

The reason for creating this collection of artwork – the base price of each piece is ₹7,000, and it comes with an 80G donation certificate – is pragmatic, says Prasanna, a pioneer of modern Kannada theatre who graduated from the National School of Drama (NSD), specialising in direction.



"The institute that I have made my soul, the Indian Institute of Educational Theatre (IIET) in Mysuru, is badly in need of funds. Theatre in Education (TIE), something that IIET offers could help generate jobs for performers from all over the country who come to their creative professions with a very specific dream...to express their little truth, but often find themselves languishing in big cities, struggling to keep themselves and their dreams afloat."

This institute, he continues, is therefore trying to create a system in which trained actors would contribute to schools that have adopted theatre into their curriculum, for which they would receive a regular income, and be able to pursue their passion of craft in their free time.

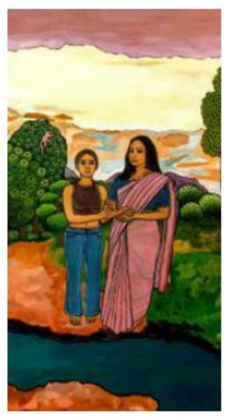
This financial buffer is important, given the current state of theatre, which is struggling because "entertainment has become everything."

Unlike in the 1960s and 1970s, when Prasanna started theatre, and "communication and expression were still quite intact", we have now become a "super-fast civilisation," which, he believes, is hurtling towards doom.

"And if civilisation is going to die, how can civilisation's silly little expression survive?"

STEPOUT

Golden melodies
Qawwali and playback singer Altaf Raja, known for iconic hits like *Tum To Thehre Pardesi*, *Ishq Aur Pyar Ka Maza Lijiye*, *Tumse Kitna* and *Dil Lagana*, will bring his soulful qawwali, romantic ballads, and expressive lyrics to the city this weekend.
At Fan Park, 2nd Floor, Phoenix Mall of Asia, on November 9, 8pm onwards. Tickets, starting from ₹499, available on BookMyShow.



Earth art
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath is hosting a group exhibition titled Hidden Gems of the Western Ghats themed around the exploitation and sustainable development of the region. Artists participating in the show include Olympe Ramakrishnan, Syed Asif Ali, Kanchana Rathna and others.
At Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath from November 7-10. Entry free.

Healing chats
Homecoming: Mental Health Journeys of Resilience, Healing, and Wholeness, an anthology showcasing the lived experiences of women leaders navigating severe mental health conditions, will be launched with a conversation between its two co-authors, Neha Kirpal and Dr Nandini Murali.
At Bangalore International Centre, Domlur on November 7, 6.30pm. Entry free.

From Page One

MP remark on national anthem draws flak

Mr. Kharge called it "WhatsApp history lesson" and "utter nonsense."

Responding in a post on X, Mr. Kharge wrote, "Another day, another RSS 'WhatsApp history' lesson. BJP MP Sri Kageri now claims our National Anthem is 'British.'" He pointed out that Rabindranath Tagore had himself clarified in 1937 and 1939 that it hails the "Dispenser of India's destiny" and "could never be George V, George VI, or any other George" as claimed by Mr. Kageri and falsely claimed on social media.

CM writes to Modi

ModiHe said the decision to write to the Prime Minister was taken at the Thursday's State Cabinet meeting. The Ministers and district officials had managed to convince the sugar factories to offer an FRP of ₹3,200 per tonne at sugar recovery percentage of 11.25, and ₹3,100 at sugar recovery percentage of 10.25, he said. This would be placed before the meeting of farmers' representatives on Friday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

He expressed concern that the Centre had increased the sugar recovery percentage to 10.25 from the level of 9.5 during the erstwhile NDA regime for determining the FRP. This would affect States that had low sugar recovery percentages, he said. He alleged that though Karnataka was producing 271 crore litres of ethanol a year, the Centre had given permission for the oil companies to buy only 47 crore litres from the State.

Cabinet approves policy to help set up 25,000 start-ups in five years

Policy aims to ensure that at least 10,000 of the targeted 25,000 start-ups are set up outside Bengaluru, says Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved the Karnataka Startup Policy 2025-30 that seeks to develop the State as a global innovation centre and help set up an additional 25,000 start-ups.

Briefing presspersons after a Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the policy seeks to set aside a budget of ₹518.27 crore over the next five years to offer financial support to start-ups.

The policy aims to ensure that at least 10,000 of the targeted 25,000 start-ups are set up outside Bengaluru, Mr. Patil noted.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the policy seeks to set aside a budget of ₹518.27 crore over the next five years to offer financial support to start-ups. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The policy will seek to create an appropriate ecosystem and work towards building the necessary infrastructure and ensure the availability of the required skilled manpower, he said.

The Cabinet also approved a proposal to modify the composition of the INDIRA (Integrated Nutrition and Dietary Initiative for Revitalising Anna Bhagya Beneficiaries) food kit under the Anna Bhagya scheme to provide additional quantum of toor dal in proportionate to the cost of the earlier proposed green gram, the Minister said.

Teachers' vacancies

The Cabinet gave clearance to a proposal for shifting the 67 vacancies of Urdu primary school teachers that were reserved for the OBCs to the general merit category as an one-time measure as no eligible candidates from the OBCs had applied for these posts, the Minister said. The Cabinet gave administrative approval for the comprehensive operation and maintenance of various sewage treatment plants in Bengaluru at a cost of ₹49.91 crore.

Cabinet nod for building annexe for Nyaya Grama on Hebbal campus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday gave approval for handing over four acres of land on the Hebbal campus of the Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University to the judiciary for the construction of residential quarters for judges of the High Court of Karnataka.

This was announced by Law Minister H.K. Patil in Bengaluru while briefing presspersons after a Cabinet meeting.

When asked about the fate of the hi-tech veterinary hospital that was proposed to be built on this land, the Minister said the decision to hand over this land for the judiciary would not affect the proposed veterinary hospital project as the hospital would come up on alternative land within the campus.

According to sources in the government, this land which is located next to the Nyaya Grama, the residential quarters for Karnataka High Court judges, would be used to build an annexe. It is expected to have about 40 houses.

The proposal had earlier drawn criticism from veterinary experts and alumni of the university who had expressed concern that the measure would decrease availability of land for the academic and research works of the university.

The university too had opposed the government's proposal. The university authorities had stated before the government that they cannot give up the land as they want to build a super-speciality veterinary hospital and pet park on it.

RMC report bats for higher user charges for government services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Major recommendations of Resource Mobilisation Committee report

- Broaden tax base, reduce over-reliance on few major sources
- Introduce auction-based digital licensing for excise
- Increase user charges in utilities
- Expanding leasing under PPP model
- Monetising urban land assets
- Better asset data management
- Systematic survey of government properties

Low non-tax revenue, especially from user charges and government assets, continues to remain a major challenge in strengthening the State's fiscal health and sustainable economic growth, according to the Resource Mobilisation Committee (RMC) report.

The committee headed by retired IAS officer K.P. Krishnan submitted the report on Thursday to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, recommending reform in the tax structures to broaden the tax base and reduce over-reliance on a few major sources of revenue, such as commercial tax, excise, motor vehicles and stamps and registration.

The report said low non-tax revenue continued to be a major challenge in the mobilisation of financial resources. Non-tax revenue is collected from user charges in government-run hospitals, irrigation, drinking water, educational institutions, public transport, and electricity supply.

Earlier too, the Fiscal Management Review Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary, had recommended remedial measures such as regular revision of user charges to check the slide in the growth of non-tax revenues.

Moderate increase

According to the Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP)-2025, the State's non-tax revenue increased moderately from ₹13,117 crore in 2023-24 to ₹14,500 crore in 2024-25. The projected non-tax revenue in 2025-26 (Budget estimate) is set at ₹16,500 crore.

In August 2024, the government set up a committee to explore resource mobilisation options, including asset monetisation. It said the substantial opportunities in leasing and monetisation are untapped. However, non-tax revenue as a percentage of GSDP and as a percentage of the own tax revenues stagnated in last few years, the MTFP said.

The committee noted that Karnataka continued to show robust economic growth, outperforming many States in India. The State's own tax revenue remained the backbone, forming about 60-70% of total revenue receipts, with significant contributions from commercial taxes, excise duties, and motor vehicle taxes.

The need for better asset data management and systematic surveying of government properties was another major challenge before the State. "The outdated guidance values and inadequate property tax revisions" were another challenge, the report said.

It recommended the introduction of auction-based digital licensing for excise, focusing on transparency and efficiency, and rationalising and increasing user charges in utilities, transitioning to volumetric billing with robust regulatory support and automatic indexation of user charges to inflation.

Asset evaluation

The committee also suggested to the Finance Department to "unlock revenue potential through scientific asset valuation, expanding leasing under public-private partnerships, and monetising urban land assets". It also recommended the periodic property surveys, and creating an economic policy wing within the Finance Department to monitor non-tax revenues and asset monetisation

The report underscored safeguarding growth-enhancing expenditures on infrastructure, education, and health while improving expenditure efficiency.

It also called for reforms in revenue mobilisation to sustain Karnataka's fiscal robustness and inclusive growth trajectory.

File plea with single judge to lift stay on G.O.: HC Bench to Karnataka government

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the Karnataka High Court on Thursday told the State government to go back to the single judge with an application to vacate the interim order of staying the Government Order (G.O.) issued on October 18.

The G.O. classifies public gathering of 10 or more individuals in public places, including parks, playgrounds, roads, etc., without prior authorisation, as a criminal offence.

Refusing to interfere with the single judge's interim order, the Bench dismissed a writ appeal filed by the government challenging the single judge's October 28 interim order.

While keeping all the contentions raised in the appeal open, the Bench said that it is open for the government to file an application before the single judge for vacating the interim order. "We are sure that the single judge will consider the application," the Bench said, while dismissing the appeal.

When the Bench, during the hearing, asked why the government cannot go before the single judge for vacating the stay order, the A-G orally replied that the government wants to "go only upward and not downward."

'Article 13(2) violation'

The single judge had stayed the G.O. by observing that "*prima facie* the G.O. is manifest violation of Article 13(2) of the Constitution of India, and has taken away the fundamental rights granted to citizens under Article 19(1) (a) and (b), which gives freedom of speech and expression and right for congregation and free movement".

However, the government in its appeal had claimed that the G.O. is "an enabling provision" and it allows private organisations and individuals to use the pubic places by taking prior permission by submitting an application only three days prior to their

Literary fest

BENGALURU: Samajamukhi Prakashana will organise the *Samajamukhi Sahitya Sammelana* on November 8 and 9 in Bengaluru.

The two-day literary event aims to create an independent, reflective forum for Kannada literature which is free from political or commercial influence.

BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY
"Jnanajyoti Central College Campus"
Dr|| B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Benglauru-560001.
E-Mail: registrar@buc.ac.in
No: BCU/ACA/Affn/03/2025-26 Date:06.11.2025

NOTIFICATION FOR AFFILIATION

Bengaluru City University invites applications through the UUCMS Online Portal from eligible colleges/institutions for starting of new colleges, continuation of affiliation, introduction of new courses/subjects in existing colleges, grant of permanent affiliation, enhancement/reduction of intake, etc.

All the affiliated colleges and managements/societies desiring to start new colleges, and the existing affiliated colleges intending for continuation of affiliation for the Academic Year 2026-27, are informed to submit applications only through online mode via the UUCMS Portal within the prescribed last date.

The online application process will commence from **10.11.2025.** The last date for submission of applications is **25.11.2025 (without fine) and 30.11.2025 (with fine)**

For detailed information, fee structure, and guidelines for submission of applications, please visit the University website **https://bcu.ac.in**, the UUCMS Portal, or visit the Academic Section of the University.

Sd/-
Registrar
DIPR/CP/JA/3638/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the Public that my client **Sri. Sadique Hussain Karkala,** the owner of the SCHEDULE PROPERTY, has lost the following original Sale Deeds.

1) Sale Deed dtd. 26-2-92 by Somarset Apartments Pvt. Ltd., to **K. V. Subbaramaiah**, registered as document **No.4289/91-92**, Book-1, Volume 3028, pages 192 to 198, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore.
2) Sale Deed dtd. 26-2-92 by Somarset Apartments Pvt. Ltd., to **Master S. Surendar**, registered as document **No.4290/91-92**, Book-1, Volume 3028, pages 199 to 205, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore.
3) Sale Deed dtd. 30-3-93 by **Master S. Aravind** to Sadiq Hussain Karkala, registered as document **No. 4463/1992-93**, Book-1, Volume 3428, pages 8 to 18, in the office of the Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bangalore.

Any person(s) tracing the same is/are hereby requested to return the same to the address shown herein below and also raise objections if there are any claims over the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Office Unit No.115, totally measuring 630 sq.ft. of super builtup area located in the First Floor of the commercial building now known as "Ramanashree Arcade" (earlier known as "Somarset Court" situated at No.18 (old No.42), Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangalore and together with 24/1000th undivided right, title and interest in the land and the Unit bounded on :

East by : Common passage forming part of the main building,
West by : Open space forming part of Office unit No.115,
North by : Office unit No.114 in No.18 (old No.42), M.G. Road, Bangalore,
South by : Office Unit No.116 in No.18 (old No.42), M.G. Road, Bangalore.

R. Shailesh Kumar
Advocate,
Unit No.F-1, 'Harshita Arcade', 1st Floor, #138, 1st Main, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-20
Mobile No. : 9845009771
Bengaluru
Date : 06-11-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the right, title, interest, benefits, entitlements of whatsoever nature of the owners of land situated at Lingashettipura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk and Chikkaballapura District, which are more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written and hereinafter referred to as the "**Schedule Property**". Our client ("**Client**") is desirous of entering into a sale transaction of the Schedule Property with the owners who have represented to our client that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property with rights of alienation over the same.

ALL persons including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a company, banks, financial institution(s), non- banking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, bequest, succession, family arrangement, grant, possession, lease, sub-lease tenancy, sub-tenancy, maintenance easement, license, bequeath, share, assignment, lien, attachment, development rights, covenant, settlement right of way, lis- pendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption, development rights, order/decree/judgement of court or any liability or commitment or otherwise or demand of any nature whatsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned having their office at 6/12, Gurappa Avenue, Primrose Road Bengaluru 560 025, within a period of **10 (Ten) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the sale transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	Sy No.	Extent	Boundaries			
			East by	West by	North by	South by
Lingashettipura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk and Chikkaballapura District						
1.	36/1	01 Acre 20 Guntas (Inclusive of 04 Guntas 'B' Kharab	Karab land	Survey No. 36/2 Venkatamma Land	40 feet Road	Survey No. 37/1 Chandrashekar Property

Prashantha Kumar S.T, Senior Partner
Keerthi Kishore B.C, Practice Head
Fox Mandal & Associates, Solicitors and Advocates
"FM House", 6/12, Primrose Road, Bangalore 560 025
Phone : +91 80 2559 5911. e-mail : prashantha.kumar@foxmandal.in
Date : 07.11.2025, Bengaluru

Only 'revolution' is Cong. coming back to power in 2028: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dismissing talk about the "November Revolution", Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Thursday that the "true revolution" will be Congress coming back to power in 2028."

Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, he said: "Somebody has written about a November revolution in the media. We have been given responsibilities for the Bihar election and we are busy with it. There is no other revolution other than the Bihar revolution."

Asked if he was meeting AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, he said: "I am not meeting anyone. No one has discussed Cabinet expansion with me. I don't have plans to meet any leader, I will only discuss party organisation. We had a meeting on vote theft yesterday and today. If there is any discussion on Cabinet expansion, it is in the media. Have I spoken anything about leadership change or has Chief Minister spoken about it? We will go by what the party says. If they say Chief Minister will be there for five years, he will be there. If they say he will be there for 10 or 15 years, he will be there. I am a disciplined soldier and will never cross the party's line."

HC launches quick e-filing dashboard

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka launched a dedicated kiosk at its Principal Bench in Bengaluru for e-filling of petitions of selected courts by presenting the documents stored on USB drives (pen drives) at the kiosk.

This will be in addition to the facility of online filling of petition using e-filling portal on the website of the court.

Also, the court launched a quick e-filing dashboard for filing petitions exclusively on tax matters on its website.

More details are available on court's website: https://judiciary.karnataka.gov.in/

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

In Memoriam

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

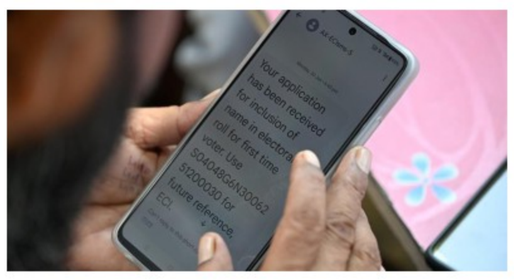
Air Vice Marshal K Chidambaram PVSM

Indian Calendar: 7th November 2025

MS. RENUKA CHIDAMBARAM IAS (RETD)
DR. ROHINI CHIDAMBARAM KRISHNAN
GP. CAPT RAJESH CHIDAMBARAM (RETD)

AND
FAMILY

INBRIEF



Residents' groups to aid SIR enumeration drive in Kerala

Election officials in Kerala have sought the support of residents' associations to ensure the smooth conduct of the enumeration work for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Associations have been urged to facilitate the visit of Booth Level Officers (BLO) to households within their area, and nominate a representative to coordinate with them. They have also been requested to help circulate information about the SIR process, the key dates and online facilities.

Police in Kerala tighten vigil on intoxicated train travellers

Following the incident in Kerala where an inebriated man kicked a woman passenger out of a moving train, the railway police have intensified checks across the State to curb unlawful practices, including boarding trains while intoxicated. The drive is jointly conducted by the railway police, Railway Protection Force, and the Kerala Armed Police personnel. The aim is to prevent people from boarding trains while intoxicated and posing a risk to others.

NBA releases ₹3 crore to red sanders growers in A.P.

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has released ₹3 crore to private Red Sanders Wood (RSW) growers in Andhra Pradesh under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism.

According to a PIB release, "A notable series of ABS release initiatives aimed at promoting the sustainable use of India's biological resources, the NBA has disbursed ₹3 crore to 199 beneficiaries, covering 198 farmers from Andhra Pradesh and cultivators of red sanders.

Gold misappropriation case: SIT arrests another accused

Officials say he was deliberately absent while the gold-plated copper plates were dismantled in Sabarimala Ayyappa temple in 2019; investigators are planning to quantify the gold in the panels

The Hindu Bureau
PATHANAMTHITTA

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Sabarimala gold misappropriation case in Kerala on Thursday arrested another former Travancore Devaswom Board official, K.S. Baiju.

Investigators allege that Mr. Baiju committed a deliberate lapse by being absent from Sabarimala while gold-plated copper plates on the Dwarapalaka statues were dismantled and handed over to the sponsor of the gold-plating work in 2019. He is also accused of failing to deputise any other responsible official or the TDB staff to supervise the work in his absence. He is the seventh accused in the case.

X-ray technology: Portable electronic metal analysers may help the SIT estimate the gold content without causing damage. LEJU KAMAL

He is currently being interrogated at the Crime Branch office in Thiruvananthapuram and is scheduled to be produced before the Judicial First Class Magistrate on Friday.

Meanwhile, the SIT has also sought permission to take two former Sabarimala officials back into custody for further interrogation. The petition was filed, citing the need for more time to question them over discrepancies found in the temple's structural components.

To quantify panels

The SIT is reportedly poised to quantify the gold in the original gilded panels donated by Vijay Mallya to the temple in 1998.

Officials say testing the roof panels and other encasings would perhaps provide with a baseline for comparing the metallurgical nature of the original panels with those returned after restoration by Unnikrishnan Potti, the prime accused, in 2019.

They say, portable electronic metal analysers, that use X-ray-based technology for on-the-spot testing, may help estimate the gold content without causing damage.

DMK, VCK to expand base beyond T.N.; plan to contest Kerala local body polls

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

After the Tamil Nadu-based political party Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) is trying to expand its political base in Idukki in Kerala. The DMK also has plans to contest in the local body elections in the district independently.

According to DMK Idukki district secretary K.K. Janardhanan, the party has already opened two offices in the district. "The party will field candidates in maximum number of seats possible in the upcoming local body elections in Tamil-populated plantation areas and contest on its official symbol," said Mr. Janardhanan.

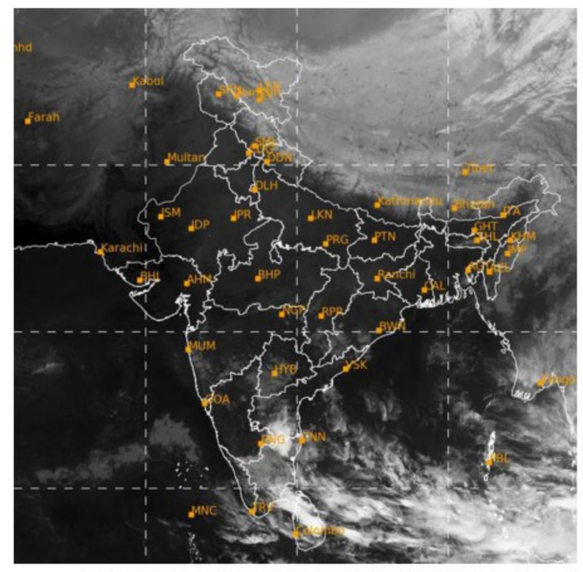
In the plantation areas of Devikulam, Udumbanchola and Peerumade taluks, Tamil voters form a majority in several wards. "Only if Tamil Nadu-based parties come to power in the local bodies, the living conditions of plantation workers could be improved," he added.

VCK Kerala spokesperson Riswan Koya K.S. stated that the party has already opened its office for the Peerumade Assembly constituency at Vandiperiyar. "The VCK has finalised candidates in the Tamil-populated wards of the Vandiperiyar, Peerumade, Elappara, and Kumily panchayats and the Vandiperiyar block panchayat. The party is eyeing the Tamil and Dalit votes from the plantation sector," Mr. Koya said.

Meanwhile, in Nilambur, All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) State convener P.V. Anvar has started negotiating with the United Democratic Front (UDF) by announcing potential candidates under the AITC banner.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh, south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	31.2	24.5	Kozhikode	—	34.0	24.1
Ahmedabad	—	32.4	21.1	Kurnool	20	33.0	24.4
Aizawl	—	25.1	18.2	Lucknow	—	30.4	19.1
Allahabad	—	31.8	18.5	Madurai	—	35.0	23.4
Bengaluru	—	28.4	20.0	Mangaluru	—	30.4	22.0
Bhopal	—	28.4	13.0	Mumbai	—	30.7	21.5
Bhubaneswar	—	32.5	18.5	Mysuru	—	30.0	15.2
Chandigarh	—	28.3	12.8	New Delhi	—	27.4	12.7
Chennai	—	32.1	26.4	Patna	—	31.1	20.8
Coimbatore	0.4	31.2	22.4	Port Blair	0.2	30.6	23.6
Dehradun	—	29.8	12.6	Puducherry	—	29.4	23.9
Gangtok	—	22.6	13.2	Pune	1	31.6	21.0
Goa	—	31.0	23.0	Raipur	—	31.1	21.3
Guwahati	2	30.2	23.1	Ranchi	—	26.6	15.6
Hubballi	—	28.0	19.0	Shillong	—	22.0	14.4
Hyderabad	—	30.3	21.0	Shimla	—	21.2	10.6
Imphal	1.3	23.6	19.9	Srinagar	—	16.6	4.5
Jaipur	—	28.2	16.7	Thiruvananthapuram	6	31.9	24.5
Kochi	—	30.2	26.4	Tiruchi	—	29.5	24.0
Kohima	11	19.8	17.3	Vijayawada	0.5	34.0	24.3
Kolkata	—	31.8	22.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.9	25.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.31	..81	.37	...154	...133	
Bengaluru	.14	..47	.87	.....—	98	
Chennai	...5	7	.37	52	...103	
Delhi	.18	113	.77	...343	...308	
Hyderabad	...9	..30	.40	...136	...132	
Kolkata	...7	..23	.32	...251	...168	
Lucknow	...5	..62	.57	...215	...186	
Mumbai	.10	..48	104	83	...116	
Pune	..—	..17	.51	80	...127	
Visakhapatnam	.11	..51	.18	...103	...123	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Rohtak, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 348 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

PROFORMA 10.01
INDIAN RAILWAYS
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the South Western Railway, that 25000 Volts, 50 Hz AC, overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date, the overhead traction line shall be treated as LIVE at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line in Marikuppam station.

Sl. No.	Section	Chainage in KM		Probable date of Energization
1	Marikuppam station phase-I loop line road-3	15/823.4 (-823-40)	1/0.90	17.11.2025

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 31.10.2025

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Construction , Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/617/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS Moblie App** from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

झारखण्ड सरकार,
कार्मिक, प्रशासनिक सुधार तथा राजभाषा विभाग

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

1. झारखण्ड राज्य सूचना आयोग में मुख्य सूचना आयुक्त के 1 (एक) रिक्त पद तथा सूचना आयुक्त के 6 (छः) रिक्त पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु पी०आर०सं०–365324 दिनांक–05.11.2025 द्वारा विज्ञापन के माध्यम से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये गये हैं।

2. उक्त प्रकाशित विज्ञापन हेतु आवेदन का विहित प्रपत्र तथा पूर्ण विवरण कार्मिक, प्रशासनिक सुधार तथा राजभाषा विभाग के वेबसाईट www.dop.jharkhand.gov.in के नोटिस मेन्यू तथा नोटिस बोर्ड पर उपलब्ध है।

ह0/–
(प्रवीण कुमार टोप्पो)
सरकार के सचिव

PR 365429 Personnel Administrative Reforms and Raj Bhasa (25-26)_D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Benglaluru, 26th October 2025

S. O. 4914(E)-. In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby authorizes the officer mentioned at column (4) in the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officer mentioned at column (5) in the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned at column (2) relating to districts mentioned at column (3) in the table below for Land Acquisition required for the public purpose.

TABLE

SN	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1	Upgradation/Development of Vande Bharath Maintenance Depot at Thanisandra	Bengaluru East	Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bengaluru	Regional Commissioner, Bengaluru

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

Pardeep Puri
Chief Engineer-III/Construction/ Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/614/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

Odisha Tourism
Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014
Fax No. +91 674 2430887
E-mail: info@odishatourism.gov.in

ODISHA
INDIA'S BEST KEPT SECRET.
ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ
ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ଭବନ, ଲୁଇସ ରୋଡ୍, ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର-୭୫୧୦୧୪

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
ପର୍ଯ୍ୟଟନ ବିଭାଗ
Government of Odisha
Tourism Department

No. 12800 /TSM, Bhubaneswar, Dated : 03.11.25
TCT-TSP-FEST-0011-2022

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF OPERATOR(S) FOR OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT (O&M) OF RESTAURANT CUM BEACH SHACK AT RAMCHANDI BEACH AREA ON OPERATIONAL CONTRACT BASIS

Department of Tourism (DoT) invites proposals from prospective applicant(s) for 'Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Operator(s) for Operation and Management (O&M) of Restaurant cum Beach Shack at Ramchandi Beach Area on Operational Contract Basis' in accordance with the conditions and manner prescribed in the Request for Proposal (RFP) document.

The Proposals should be submitted by interested applicant(s) to the Director, Tourism, Paryatan Bhawan, Lewis Road, Bhubaneswar-751014 on or before **25.11.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs.** Detailed terms of the RFP may be downloaded from our website : **https://odishatourism.gov.in/content/tourism/en/dot/quickLinks/tender.html** and **https://dot.odisha.gov.in/tenders-advertisement**.

R-14

Addl. Secretary to Govt.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
CO-OPERATION DEPARTMENT
Lok Seva Bhawan,
Lok Seva Marg, Unit-2, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. 751001

Selection of Social Media Consultants for Government of Odisha

1. Cooperation Department, (The Client) invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from the eligible bidders for selection of an Agency to manage the affairs of Social Media for Cooperation Department, Govt. of Odisha.
2. Scope of work, eligibility requirement and other details may be seen in the website of Cooperation Department **https://coop.odisha.gov.in**. The RFP document may be downloaded from the above website.
3. Last date for receipt of sealed Proposal is **dtd.26/11/2025 by 5.30 P.M.**

BIDDER'S DATASHEET :

SL.No.	Particular	Details
1.	Name of the Client	Cooperation Department
2.	Method of Selection	Quality and Cost based Selection (QCBS)
3.	Date of the Issue of RFP	06/11/2025
4.	RFP due date	26/11/2025
5.	Date of Opening of the Proposal	28/11/2025
6.	Address for Submission of Proposal	Additional Secretary to Govt., Cooperation Department, Lok Seva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha -751001 Ph No.0674-2536994 Email - cooperationodisha@gmail.com
		Mode of Submission - Speed Post only. Submission of proposal through any other mode and late proposal will be rejected.

LL-20:

Government of Karnataka.
(Public Works, Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Bidar

NO: EE/PWD//DIVN/BDR/KKRDB/JE-5/ 2025-26/ 2504 Date: 30.10.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER NOTIFICATION.

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, PWD Division Bidar invites Tenders under KKRDB from eligible Tenderers. Amount put to tender for the works are **Minimum Rs. 55.00 Lakhs & Maximum Rs,110.00 Lakhs.** PWD/2025-26/BD /RD /OW/WORK_INDENT GENERAL (03) 28080,28251,28776, Tender documents may be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Govt of Karnataka Viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on **30.10.2025** Tenders must be submitted through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or **before 16.00 hours on 18.11.2025.** Further any other information can be seen from the e-procurement portal or can be had from the undersigned. Note :- Turn over certificate Without UDI Number will not be considered.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division. Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/228/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO) LIQUID PROPULSION SYSTEMS CENTRE (LPSC)
Construction & Maintenance Division
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru -560 008. Ph:080-25037203/080-2503214

Date: 06.11.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of work and NIT No. & Date	Estimated Amount	EMD	Period of Completion
1	Providing new Earth pits for Electrical system of the IVTF facility at LPSC(B) campus, Bengaluru-Electrical Works. NIT No:LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2033/E/MI/027/2025-26 Dated:06.11.2025	₹9.33 Lakhs	₹ 18,660/-	01 Month
	Period of downloading: From 06.11.2025 to 13.11.2025			

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Invting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD, LPSC(B)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-3/SCP/TND/2025-26/2793 **Date: 05.11.2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for follwoing works as per KTTP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702- SCP Works:- Total 2 Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.88.89 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are Six(6) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **06.11.2025.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **17.11.2025.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **15.11.2025.** Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/438/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com & cekhsdrp-hfws@karnataka.gov.in**

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-1&8/TND/2025-26/2547 Date:06.11.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites Tender for Appointment of Consultants for Preparation of **DPR, Architectural, Structural and other services Design and Drawings** in QCBS system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform for the following works under Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences Fund.

Sl. No	Description of works	Approximate Service Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs) (including GST)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)
1	Consultancy Services for Preparation of **Architectural, Structural and other services Design and Drawings** for the work of Construction of **Medical College,** 300 Beds Hospital, Boys and Girls Hostel and allied facilities at **Kanakapura** in Bengaluru South District.	415.00	6.23
2	Consultancy Services for providing **Architectural, Structural and other services Design and Drawings** for the work of Construction of Govt., **Medical College** Boys and Girls Hostel, Teaching Staff Quarters and allied facilities at Bagalkot in **Bagalkot** District.	300.00	4.50

Calendar of Events:(1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **: 06.12.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **08.12.2025 at 11.01 hrs.** The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Portal platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the under signed for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on KPP Portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

The second issue

A more expansive reading of the surrogacy law can help more couples

The Supreme Court's recent observations about the legality of going in for surrogacy for the second child has raised the fundamental issue of what a law is meant to regulate. In a petition in the Court, a couple facing secondary infertility sought to use surrogacy, as under the Surrogacy Act, surrogacy cannot be resorted to for the second child. Their advocate argued that the state cannot interfere in the private lives and reproductive choices of citizens. Secondary infertility is when a couple is unable to conceive, or carry a pregnancy to term, though they have previously birthed children naturally. The causes are similar to primary infertility – Polycystic Ovary Syndrome, endometriosis, and lifestyle factors. The petitioners sought an exemption to have a second child through surrogacy, submitting that the definition of 'infertility' in the context of surrogacy, both in the ART and the Surrogacy Acts, was not restricted to only primary infertility. Under Section 4(iii)(C)(II) of India's Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, a couple is eligible for surrogacy only if they do not have any surviving child (biological, adopted, or through surrogacy). Exceptions are made only if the existing child is mentally or physically challenged or has a life-threatening disorder. The government submitted arguments supporting the view that surrogacy cannot be deemed a fundamental right, and that it involves the use of another woman's body. While the judge orally remarked that the restriction imposed under the provision was "reasonable", the Court has decided to examine whether a law banning married couples facing secondary infertility from using surrogacy to have a second child amounts to a restriction on the reproductive choices of citizens.

It may be noted that the Court recently diluted the age specification for surrogacy, allowing age relaxation for couples who had frozen embryos prior to passing the Act. If the avowed intent of the law, as argued at the stage of debate, is to prevent commercial surrogacy, or exploitative situations taking advantage of vulnerable women, besides regulating the mushrooming fertility centres (in conjunction with the ART Act), then to impose restrictions differentiating between primary and secondary fertility seems like splitting hairs. Currently, there is no law restricting the number of children a person can have in India, though many States have incentivised a two-child norm in terms of government benefits, jobs or political offices. A more expansive interpretation of the law, facilitating, for all those in need, access to the benefits of technology, is likely to satisfy two requirements – assisting intending parents, and preventing commercial surrogacy.

Justice in food

Justice in food systems implies transition to healthy, affordable diets

By showing that food alone drives five of the six breached planetary boundaries and about 30% of greenhouse-gas emissions worldwide, the new 'EAT-Lancet Commission on healthy, sustainable, and just food systems' report shows how food systems are at the centre of the overlapping climate, biodiversity, water, and pollution crises. Foods from animals account for most agricultural emissions whereas the grains dominate nitrogen, phosphorus, and water use. Only combined action, including cuts to food loss, enhanced and durable productivity gains, and dietary changes, can reverse these trends. The prediction on biogeochemical flows is stark: current agriculture leaves a global nitrogen surplus more than twice in excess of the safe limit. Efficiency gains left uncorrected by good policy can also spur more output that then erases environmental savings. The Commission is pragmatic, too, acknowledging that a response combining everything from dietary changes to emissions mitigation would still only barely return the world's food systems to safety *vis-à-vis* the climate and freshwater crises by mid-century; the pressure on nutrient security will remain. It does make one questionable assumption, that GDP will grow 127% in 30 years, whereas policy should focus on lower growth and worse climate shocks.

According to the report, India maintains a cereal-heavy diet while meeting benchmarks by 2050 entails more vegetables, fruits, nuts and legumes, which could raise average consumer prices. Affordability is already fragile in areas that import many of these foods, leaving consumers exposed to price shocks. Justice thus implies a transition towards healthier, more diverse diets while keeping prices in check. But changing diets may not always be desirable: preferences are anchored in religion, caste, and convenience, and on necessity *vis-à-vis* midday meals and procurement commitments. Rather than a diet-first strategy, then, new standards can cut harmful inputs, fiscal measures can make minimally processed foods cheaper, and procurement can normalise regionally familiar, more affordable dishes. Even then, supply-side reform is essential to overcome water stress, degraded soils, and fossil fuel dependence in cold chains and processing. India also needs to move away from implicit, open-ended incentives to extract groundwater. Finally, the Commission identifies market concentration, weak incentives for preventing labour and ecological harm, and undue corporate influence as factors that could stall change. Justice on the other hand demands stronger collective bargaining by workers and small producers and consumer representation in regulatory processes. These safeguards are partial at best today and need to become guaranteed in practice.

Redraw welfare architecture, place a UBI in the centre

Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka

is Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Indian National Congress, and Chairperson, Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj

As India's wealth gap stretches to levels unseen since Independence and technology races ahead of policy, we find ourselves hurtling toward a collision of crises, job-shedding automation, gig economy precarity, climate-driven displacement and a mental health time bomb fed by chronic insecurity. At this moment, ideas such as universal basic income (UBI), once dismissed as utopian, deserve a fresh, pragmatic look. A UBI can cushion mass unemployment, restoring consumer demand when machines outnumber workers, rewarding unpaid care that props up the formal economy, and rebuilding a social contract frayed by pandemics and capitalism alike. In India, where welfare systems are often plagued by inefficiencies, exclusions and complex eligibility filters, a UBI offers a radical yet simple proposition: a periodic, unconditional cash transfer to every citizen, irrespective of income or employment status. Re-examining it is no longer an academic indulgence. It is an urgent policy imperative. By embedding dignity, autonomy and simplicity into its design, a UBI challenges us to rethink what a welfare state ought to provide in the 21st century.

Universality is the primary strength of a UBI. Where Bismarckian and Beveridgean models peg security to past employment or bureaucratic proof of hardship, a UBI anchors it in citizenship alone, transforming social protection into a streamlined, rights-based pipeline that is resilient to automation shocks, climate emergencies and the invisible labour of care. It bypasses the administrative complexities of targeted welfare and removes the stigma associated with poverty-based entitlements. It aims to create a basic floor of income security for all, ensuring that no one is left behind due to bureaucratic lapses or conditional access.

The argument for a UBI in India

India's current welfare landscape, though expansive, remains fragmented and uneven. Schemes suffer from leakage, duplication, and exclusion. A UBI offers a way to streamline welfare delivery, particularly as digital infrastructure, such as Aadhaar and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) platforms, matures. But the argument for a UBI is not just administrative; it is fundamentally moral and economic.

The macro numbers flatter us. Earlier this year, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) claimed that India ranks fourth globally in income equality, citing the consumption-based Gini index. However, this measure focuses on household expenditure, not income or wealth, and thus masks the true extent of economic inequality. According to the World Inequality Database, India's wealth inequality Gini stood at 75 in 2023. The top 1% of the population owns 40% of the national wealth, while the top 10% controls nearly 77%. These figures suggest a level of concentration unseen since colonial times.

At the same time, India's GDP growth – 8.4% in 2023-24 – has failed to translate into broad-based prosperity. Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz has long argued that GDP, while measuring economic output, does not account for the quality of life, environmental sustainability or equity. This disconnect is underscored by India's ranking of 126 out of 137 countries in the 2023 World Happiness Report – behind Nepal, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. GDP-centric narratives obscure rising precarity, job insecurity and social stress.

> In today's crisis-ridden world, ideas such as a universal basic income (UBI) are an urgent policy need

A modest, unconditional deposit, landing in every Jan Dhan account without forms or favours, means that a gig-worker can buy vegetables even when the app is quiet and a rickshaw driver's child can start the school term with new shoes. So, a UBI chips away at extreme concentration, reduces the lure of one-off freebies, and anchors growth in every kitchen rather than just in quarterly spreadsheets.

Pilot studies within India, including the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)-led initiative in Madhya Pradesh (2011-13), found that UBI recipients experienced better nutrition, increased school attendance, and higher earnings. International trials in Finland, Kenya and Iran showed similar results, with improved mental health and food security, without reducing willingness to work.

Automation and artificial intelligence add urgency to the case for a UBI. According to a McKinsey Global Institute report, up to 800 million jobs worldwide could be displaced by 2030 due to automation. India's semi-skilled and informal workforce is especially vulnerable. A UBI can provide a buffer during this transition, allowing time for upskilling and repositioning in the labour market.

It will rework the citizen-state relationship

The philosophical case for a UBI is equally compelling. For decades, the relationship between the citizen and the state has been largely transactional, defined by market participation and economic contribution. A UBI offers a structural antidote to the very populist, consumer-as-voter politics Shruti Kapila critiques. It removes the political incentive to dangle ad hoc freebies, free power here, a loan-waiver there, that parties deploy to manufacture short-term allegiance. When income security is decoupled from partisan largesse, voters are less hostage to transactional giveaways and more empowered to judge governments on systemic outcomes: quality of schools, rule of law, and ecological stewardship. In this sense, a UBI shifts the relationship from consumerism ("Vote me in, get subsidised units of electricity") back to citizenship ("You already possess a basic economic right; now demand good governance"). It replaces the politics of paternal patronage with a rights-based social contract, undercutting populist schemes that thrive on scarcity, targeted subsidies and moral grandstanding.

Worries that a basic income cheque would make everyday prices explode do not match how people live where such cheques already exist. Big inflations, Weimar and Zimbabwe happened when factories shut and debts were owed in foreign money, not because ordinary people got a little extra spending money. Fund a UBI responsibly, keep the shelves stocked, and it becomes a cushion against hardship, not a spark for price hikes. Rather than dismiss a UBI as fiscally unviable or politically risky, we must engage with it seriously, as a tool to reduce poverty, mitigate inequality, and strengthen democratic citizenship.

It is important to recognise that a UBI is not a panacea. It will not by itself create jobs, fix public health systems or transform education outcomes. But it can serve as a base – providing a minimum level of economic security upon which individuals can build lives of agency and aspiration. It also recognises and supports unpaid labour, especially the care work undertaken predominantly by women, which remains invisible in traditional economic metrics. A UBI is not about promoting dependency; it is about expanding opportunity.

Some issues such as funding

Despite its promise, a UBI raises legitimate concerns. A minimal UBI of ₹7,620 a person a year – equivalent to the poverty line – would cost around 5% of India's GDP. Funding such an initiative would require either raising taxes, rationalising subsidies, or increasing borrowing, each of which has its economic implications. Moreover, a UBI's universality could dilute its redistributive intent by allocating resources to affluent sections alongside the poor.

A practical way forward would be to introduce a UBI in phases. Vulnerable groups – women, the elderly, persons with disabilities and low-income workers – could be prioritised. This targeted rollout would allow for evaluation and infrastructure building before full-scale implementation. A UBI could also complement, rather than replace, essential schemes such as the Public Distribution System and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act , particularly in the early stages.

Another key challenge is technological access. While Aadhaar and Jan Dhan have expanded financial inclusion, gaps remain in digital literacy, mobile access and bank connectivity particularly in tribal, remote, and underserved areas. These gaps must be closed to prevent exclusion from a scheme intended to be universal.

As the Indian state seeks to modernise its welfare architecture, a UBI deserves a central place in the conversation. History suggests that India will revisit the question sooner than we think. The calculus is no longer 'Can we afford UBI?' but 'Can we afford the democratic cost of mass insecurity'? Universality, not means-testing, is the architecture fit for a 21st-century welfare state.

The views expressed are personal

As the next phase of SIR rolls on, the case of Assam

Fuzail Ahmad Ayyubi

is an Advocate-on-Record before the Supreme Court of India

With the Election Commission of India (ECI) in the midst of a new phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) across multiple States, after its Bihar pilot project, the key allegation that the Opposition has levelled against the ECI has been that the poll body seeks to conduct a "backdoor NRC" – a reference to the National Register of Citizens (NRC) that was prepared in Assam and demanded in other States as well by certain groups.

In a press conference on October 27, the ECI had clarified that the second phase of the nationwide SIR would not extend to Assam, which would be going to the polls next year. The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) said that while the Citizenship Act, 1955, makes separate provisions for Assam, the citizenship ascertainment under the Supreme Court of India's monitoring is "about to be completed" – a claim which needs to be contextualised and that gives rise to a fundamental question about the ECI's jurisdiction.

Issue of jurisdiction

It does not require any reiteration to state that one of the key criticisms of the Bihar SIR was the ECI asking for proof of citizenship on the basis of limited documents for anyone who was not on the electoral rolls in 2003. This is so because the ECI's own guidelines require anyone whose citizenship is found to be doubtful to be referred to the competent authority under the Citizenship Act.

In the Assam exception and its subtle explanation, however, the ECI has swept the biggest doubts under the carpet on its jurisdiction in ascertaining citizenship, as conducting any such exercise in Assam would have presented a novel legal hurdle – that of the NRC already prepared in Assam under the constant monitoring by the Court and, ultimately, the legal necessity to put the residents of the State through another rigorous exercise regarding their citizenship despite not being the empowered authority under the Citizenship Act.

Why the CEC's explanation that the citizenship ascertainment for Assam is about to be completed is a smokescreen is because the NRC in Assam had already been prepared under the Supreme Court's monitoring over five years ago. On August 31, 2019, the Office of the State Co-Ordinator, NRC, Assam issued a press release titled "Publication of Final NRC on 31st August, 2019", thereby notifying that the process of updating the NRC in Assam had concluded. This was a watershed moment for Assam and India, making Assam the only State after Independence to have conducted, and concluded, an exercise on such a large scale and under the monitoring of the top court of the land.

> By skipping Assam for Special Intensive Revision, the Election Commission of India conveniently avoids questions as to its jurisdiction as a citizenship verification authority

According to the State Coordinator's press release, a total of 3.30 crore people had applied through 68.38 lakh applications. After years of deliberation and consultation with the stakeholders, a meticulous legal architecture was developed to scrutiny and verify citizenship documents. The gigantic exercise was carried out with the involvement of nearly 52,000 State officials and under the constant monitoring and supervision of the Court. The exercise concluded with 3,11,21,004 people found eligible for inclusion in the final NRC, while 19,06,657 people were excluded. This massive exercise was conducted at the cost of over ₹1,600 crore.

If the NRC is allowed to stand, as it constitutionally and legally should, the ECI must focus on its primary role of conducting free and fair elections, and not assume the mantle of a parallel citizenship tribunal. Assam already carries the burden of being the only State where a full-scale citizenship verification has been conducted under the Supreme Court's watch, and its residents deserve to be spared from another round of uncertainty and bureaucratic scrutiny. Anything less would have the possibility of unsettling the fragile social fabric and diminishing trust in India's institutions.

Section 6A, a unique regime for Assam

In the background of the NRC was a key issue central to the debate on citizenship in Assam – Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955. Introduced in 1985 as part of the Assam Accord, this provision created a distinct legal regime of citizenship applicable only to Assam, prescribing cut-off dates for the detection and deportation of foreigners that was different from the rest of the country.

In October 2024, a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in In Re: Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A, reaffirming the framework as a special measure for Assam and stressing its compatibility with the preambular value of fraternity. This judgment reinforced the idea that Assam's citizenship question cannot be approached in the same way as other States, and that its historical, political, and legal uniqueness must be preserved and respected.

In perspective

Unlike other States, the legal issues settled and unsettled with regard to citizenship and migration have been unique in Assam for at least the past half a century. Judgment after judgment with regard to the legal position of citizenship in Assam reinforces this uniqueness. Thus, any attempt by the ECI to conduct an SIR in Assam on the same path of an inquiry on citizenship, despite the peculiar legal landscape, would require it to negotiate the curves carefully.

One may also argue that if the NRC-Assam has already been prepared, what stops the ECI from using that data and completing the exercise in Assam reasonably sooner than in other States?

What is also remarkable is that in the NRC, Assam was not prepared to meet an election deadline; it was finalised after wide and inclusive consultations with all stakeholders in the State. The NRC's culmination, therefore, on August 31, 2019, was through a wide consultative process, monitored at every stage by a special Bench of the Supreme Court. It would certainly be difficult for the ECI to ignore that exercise and the likelihood of people included in the NRC, finding themselves excluded from voters' lists, which would place the ECI in an uncomfortable position.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The first phase

I cast my vote in the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections (Jagdishpur constituency) and it was a proud and memorable moment for me as I was voting for the very first time. Standing in line with people from different backgrounds made me realise the true strength of democracy. The arrangements were smooth, and officials were very cooperative. Casting my vote gave me a sense of responsibility toward shaping Bihar's future. I urge every eligible citizen to vote in the next phase and choose their candidates and parties based on their own judgment and beliefs. Let us vote wisely to build a stronger and better Bihar.

Md. Sabir Hussain,
Arrah, Bihar

What the people of Bihar need is not another round of familiar promises but a road map for progress. The State's youth and diaspora have talent, energy and ambition, yet politics remains stuck in the old cycle of caste and populism.

Rachita,
Chandigarh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Are AI-based tools for mental health helpful or harmful?

Neeraj Kumar

Founder and CEO, Peak Mind, which is harnessing technology to help Indian students mitigate challenges they face, especially those related to mental health

Jamila Koshy

Bengaluru-based psychiatrist with more than three decades of experience in the field of mental health, in the Army, and in public and private hospitals

PARLEY

Last week, Open AI reported that over a million people discuss suicide or self-harm tendencies with ChatGPT every week. Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tools are now being developed to support mental health in India, especially for students in institutions such as IIT Kharagpur and at coaching institutions for engineering and medical entrance exams. Is this helpful or harmful? Neeraj Kumar and Jamila Koshy discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Priscilla Jebaraj**. Edited excerpts:

Dr. Koshy, you have several clients who have used an AI chat bot as a companion and maybe even as a therapist. In what ways do you think it may have been helpful or harmful for their mental health?

Jamila Koshy: Several people – students, younger people, and often engineering students – are using these AI tools, both for information as well as for therapy. I have found that there can be a lot of mistakes in the information that AI sources give. When it comes to [using AI for] therapy, I have a lot of reservations. Patients seem to talk to this bot as if it is a person. They think they don't have to go to the hospital/clinic and wait in line, so this is convenient. It is like their personal therapist; it is always there for them. But this is not a real interaction, so it is deceptive. I have tried out the bot. It says things like, 'I'm so happy you called me today. I'm willing to listen to you. I understand your problem and I would like to help you. Would you like to tell me more?' As if it is a real person there. This is not useful because it cuts out the need for therapy. Though the bot may tell you to go and meet a therapist, the need is being unconsciously undermined.

Mr. Kumar, Peak Mind has developed an AI-driven app that is being used by students in top coaching institutions and at an IIT. How does your app and your AI chatbot, Peakoo, help them? How is it different from chatting with ChatGPT?

Neeraj Kumar: All institutions have active helplines and counselling teams in-house. Every month, there are campaigns that ask you to come and seek help. Still, there is a huge stigma [when it comes to seeking help]. How do you check a fever? You use a thermometer. But if I ask you, how is your mental health, you will make a guess. Making mental health measurable is the first part where tech and AI are helping us. At Peak Mind, we have validated screening

GETTY IMAGES

assessments. AI interprets all the conversations users have on Peak Mind, tracks their mood, and alerts us early against any potential self-harm, using our suicide tech algorithm. When we see signs of distress and self-harm, alerts are raised and sent to the right authorities at the institute. It provides an AI companion for students to talk to about basic confusions or overwhelming emotions. They may have these due to relationships, academic pressure... Institutions are struggling to bring people who need help to counsellors. Most students have never gone to a counsellor. They feel overwhelmed at the thought of seeking help. There is a transition that needs to happen and technology and AI are bridging that gap.

Compared to ChatGPT, Peakoo is well-trained in the Indian context. There are guardrails. There is a limit to what can be discussed with an AI companion. Peakoo guides the user to the institute counsellor. Beyond conversation, the app also provides validated CBT [Cognitive Behavioral Therapy]-based tools as a therapist would: thought re-framing, journaling, mindfulness meditation activities, a breathing protocol or grounding technique.

Dr. Koshy, do you think this is a helpful way of nudging students who need therapy towards a therapist? Do you have any suggestions on making it more helpful?

JK: I suppose there is no way back from this because this is already in the public domain. This is not what I would choose at all. By doing this, we are furthering the stigma. We are saying you do not need to go out, you can handle this on your own. Calling it a companion is personalising the AI, and that is harmful. Call it an AI tool instead. Remove all first person references because it is not an 'I', it is not a companion, it is a mechanical tool. I doubt that the AI is going to be able to pick up on suicidal

> Most students have never gone to a counsellor. They feel overwhelmed at the thought of seeking help. There is a transition that needs to happen and technology and AI are bridging that gap.
> NEERAJ KUMAR

tendencies, because it is programmed to recognise words such as death or death wish. [As a psychiatrist], we don't recognise suicidal tendencies just by those words. We look at the person, we see their connections with people, we see how withdrawn they are, we see whether there is a change in the way they related to us earlier. We see whether they have dropped a word not about death, but about feeling isolated. When we entrust this screening to an AI tool, we are in danger of missing a lot. That is my biggest fear. There are people who talk to these bots for a long time. That should not be allowed. If a person needs to talk to a bot more than three times, I think they need a therapist.

CBT techniques can't be used before a diagnosis because the commonest things that slip through are the major psychoses. People with psychosis don't come and say, I have this. We have to see it. Often it is visual. It is a combination of things which helps us pick it up. I am sure the bot will miss at least some of it.

Mr. Kumar, what is the source of the initial intelligence that informs the bot?

NK: We have a large team of qualified psychologists and psychiatrists who use all the trained models. I am not talking about issues which need clinical intervention. We help students build trust in the human counsellor available in the institute. A qualified team does research and trains the bot in analysing conversations in multiple languages... We keep adding new words every week for the screening. So far, we have been able to raise more than 10,000 critical alerts and save more than 100 suicidal cases in our work.

Apart from your team's initial input, AI learns from its users. Are there any ethical and privacy concerns about the mental health of students being used to train AI?

NK: You cannot breach the user's privacy and confidentiality. User identities are not disclosed to the team which looks at the conversations. We are the first level of support. The moment somebody says they want to go deeper, they are diverted to a human being. We are only the initial stage, which users can safely vent to. If there are pre-qualified tools available, those are again recommended by a team of psychologists and psychiatrists. Beyond that, they are directed to the human teams in our partner institutions and they take the cases offline.

When OpenAI says over a million people are discussing suicide with ChatGPT each week, it indicates that people are lacking real companions to discuss their feelings with. What can parents and institutions do to build up that kind of real-life support for students so that they don't depend on AI?

JK: It is usually students who are a little awkward or isolated, or in new situations, or who have serious mental health problems who are using AI. Some kids come with an adjustment problem, which is a 'level one' issue. My concern is that the feedback that bots are giving is not the feedback that humans would give. If a student talks to another student about their problems, they won't always get a very mature response. They will sometimes get somebody who brushes them off, or is mean to them, or bullies them. This is the real world. Students have to learn to navigate this world where responses are not perfect. If the bot is always validating their responses, I'm not sure if we are actually preparing students for the real world. In a conversation with a patient, particularly if I know them well, at some point I push back. Bots are not able to provide a real space. It may be a safe space, but it has to be a limited space.

To build real-life support, parents need to expose children to lots of experiences, listen to them, and help them make friends.

NK: Nothing can beat human conversations. We have created a lot of modules for everyday interactions and experiences. Every two hours on our platform, we do a short activity: breath work or meditation, mindfulness, affirmations, gratitude, compassion. Thousands of students come, join it, and then ask questions. So normalisation happens. It is a community activity. We extensively work in the coaching sector, and we have found that 65% students go through moderate to severe anxiety that is unrecognised and unaddressed. If they are at a stage where they need to see a counsellor or psychiatrist, they should go ahead and do that. But in between, they do get some support.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The experience of travelling alone as a woman to cover elections

Years ago, several questions were asked of women reporters in smaller cities and towns, but things seem to be changing slowly

Sobhana K. Nair

In the second week of February 2017, I reached a hotel in Moradabad at 8 p.m. The first phase of polling for the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections had just concluded and there were six more to go. Having spent the entire day in the field talking to voters, I looked forward to some food and rest.

At the dimly lit check-in desk, the receptionist, a man in his mid-40s, asked, "Are you alone?" The question, and the tone in which it was said, instantly raised my hackles. "Yes," I replied firmly, trying to inject authority into my voice. I am not sure whether that fooled him. It certainly didn't fortify me. I grabbed the keys, waiving off the hotel staff who wanted to carry my luggage, and ran to my room. I locked the door and placed a chair against it. Looking back, I wonder if I was overreacting, convinced that solo women travellers are always at risk. Maybe not. I am okay not knowing the answer.

For the upcoming Assembly polls in Bihar, I travelled across three cities from Gaya to Darbhanga. The setting was not very different from Moradabad. The reception, however, was very different. No one questioned me or asked why I was travelling alone. There were no curious stares, no condescending remarks, no words of caution. I felt safe.

This experience was not limited to Bihar. As a woman traveling alone to Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities, I have noticed a perceptible change in the demeanour of hotel staff. I saw this during my travels for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as well. The reception was mostly neutral.

There were other heartening signs as well. At Darbhanga, the market was shutting down for Chhath celebrations the next day. Only a few dhabhas were open. I sat alone to eat a meal. On the table next to me, two young women sat down and ate with abandon, happily asking for second helpings. It felt good to watch them.

In July, I was in Bihar for a story on the Special Intensive Revision exercise, conducted by the Election Commission of India to "clean up" the electoral rolls in the State. The Opposition had called for a bandh. Our car was stuck on the highway, somewhere between Purnia and Madhubani. There was a long traffic jam. I was getting anxious about losing time and not being able to talk to enough people. I got out of the car to talk to a group standing at a tea shop. They told me that a booth-level officer was at their village. One of them agreed to drop me there on his motorcycle. I had only my phone and diary with me. I went along. From there, another group took me to another village just so I could speak to more people. When I called my photographer from there, I realised that I had travelled some 7 kilometres with strangers from the place where the cab was stuck. But not for a moment did I feel unsafe.

This is not to say that the world has suddenly become safe or that my anxieties related to my gender have vanished. I still plan my trips meticulously – booking hotels in advance and charting routes carefully. I make sure to stop in reasonably large towns where I can find clean, safe accommodation. It often means I can't take detours or make unscheduled stops. Before leaving for Bihar, I spoke to several male colleagues who were also covering the elections. Their itineraries were not as rigid as mine. In contrast, a young female reporter from a news portal called me from Patna, worried about finding a safe hotel in Seemanchal.

I am aware that the first generation of women reporters crossed higher barriers, travelling to the farthest corners without giving in to the farce of wearing socially acceptable clothes or limiting themselves to "softer beats". They opened the doors for us. I am glad that field trips for women reporters are no longer the heroic adventure they once were.

We have certainly come a long way. But we still have a long way to go.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Soaking in the atmosphere

Devotees participate in the Ganga aarthi on the occasion of Tripura Purnima at the holy Banganga Tank in Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 7, 1975

Moroccan peace marchers cross Spanish Sahara border

Spanish Sahara, Nov. 6: In scenes reminiscent of a biblical epic, tens of thousands of Moroccan volunteers walked through blinding dust storm in searing desert heat to-day to start their occupation of the Spanish Sahara.

They walked for three hours to a point just four kilometres from the Spanish dissuasion line of alleged minefields, barbed wire and heavy armoured units.

A senior gendarmerie officer controlling the march said, "We will stay here overnight and tomorrow morning, we will see."

Spain has termed this military line the "line of discussion" beyond which it refuses to allow the Morrocan marchers to pass.

Meanwhile Rabat Radio to-night reported the marchers – about 40,000 strong – were some 18 kms inside Spanish territory. The march volunteers were eight kms, from Douara, a meeting point of desert caravan tracks, the Moroccan radio said.

In principle the rest of the 3,50,000 marchers are due to start crossing into Spanish Sahara in groups of about 20,000 at a time as from to-morrow.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 7, 1925

Universal wheel and engineering company

(From a correspondent): An entirely new and interesting factory for the manufacture of cycles, motorcycles and other types of vehicles has just been opened in Mount Road, Madras. This, we believe, is the first of its kind in India. The idea of starting a new industry in India, was first mooted by Mr. S.A.A. Annamalai Chettiar, the well known banker and financier, whilst on a visit to England.

From Page One

Record 64.66% voting in first phase of Bihar polls

"Just as no member of Lalu Prasad's family won the 2010 elections, similarly, no one from his family will win the elections this time too," he said.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said that the public's enthusiasm for the NDA was "overwhelming". "The large voter turnout proves that the people of Bihar are committed to fulfilling the resolve for a developed Bihar, and that through their right to vote, they have worked to build a strong and powerful Bihar," he said. He too said that Mr. Yadav will lose in Raghopur.

Mr. Yadav said Bihar has voted for change in the first phase. "To dispel 20 years of darkness, every Bihari came out of their homes and lit the light of change," he said.

"For the first time in 20 years, such an unprecedented wave of change is visible in favour of the grand alliance. Not only from every home, but from every heart, only one voice is heard: this time, we will bring a new young government," he said.

Mr. Yadav said that "20 years of unemployment, poverty, crime, injustice, inequality, oppression, corruption, and countless sufferings are about to end". "The people of Bihar have voted unanimously in favour of the grand alliance candidates in all 121 seats. Thank you very much to everyone. Just like in the first phase, please give your love, blessings, affection, and support to Tejashwi in the second phase, November 11," he said.

Congress leader Pawan Khera said that the "youth, women, elderly of Bihar, every section is voting in anger against this government. The vote of anger is always the vote for change. Change is coming in Bihar."

Till 5 p.m., out of 18 districts, Begusarai recorded the highest turnout at 67.32%, Patna 55.02% and Sheikhpura at 52.36%, the lowest.

'Right to vote different from freedom of voting'

In such cases, the provision instructs a Returning Officer (RO) to declare all such candidates as duly elected by filling in Form 21 (in case of a general election) or Form 21B (in case of an election to fill a casual vacancy).

Prevents voters' right to exercise NOTA

The petitioners, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, represented by advocate Harsh Parashar, and the Association for Democratic Reforms, through advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi, submitted that the RO's declaration without conducting a poll prevented citizens from expressing their right to vote the 'None of the Above' or the NOTA option and voice their dissatisfaction about the contesting candidate.

Both the government and the Election Commission of India have responded to whether declaration of a sole candidate without taking any poll was a violation of the electors' right to express their unhappiness by voting NOTA.

The Centre's affidavit in court began with a fundamental lesson on the difference between 'right to vote' and the 'freedom of voting'. It said the 'right to vote' was only a statutory right conferred by Section 62 of the Representation of the People Act of 1951, and subject to the limitations given in the statute. Freedom of voting, on the other hand, was a "species of the right to expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution".

Two Census apps, test portal for self-enumeration go live

Enumerators have been trained to use apps to help in digital collection and faster processing of Census data; self-enumeration portal is open to the public in pre-test areas till today

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The pre-test for first phase, House Listing and Housing Operations, will be held in select areas from November 10 to 30. R. RAGU

The Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India launched two mobile applications this week in preparation for the trial phase of the country's first digital Census in 2027.

The pre-test for the first phase, House Listing and Housing Operations (HLO), when a total of 30 questions on housing amenities will be asked, will be held in select areas across the country from November 10 to 30.

The enumerators, including block development officials, revenue officials, and government schoolteachers, have been trained to collect data on the two applications available on Google Play Store: Digital Layout Map (DLM) and Census 2027 - Houselist. The apps are compatible with both Android and Apple phones, and can only be downloaded by authorised personnel.

Public participation

The self-enumeration portal is available for testing from November 1 to 7.

"To encourage public participation, a Self-Enumeration facility will be made available through the Census Portal from 1st to 7th November 2025, allowing individuals residing in the areas selected for Pre-Test to submit their details online through the website *https://test.census.gov.in/se*, prior to field visits by enumerators," a government statement said.

Digital mode

The DLM app's description explains the evolution of India's Census, the world's largest data collection exercise, into a digital operation.

"Until the 2011 Census, data was collected on paper schedules, with layout map sketches prepared manually. These paper records were later digitised through scanning, a process that was both time-consuming and prone to inconsistencies. With the upcoming 16th Census of India, a historic transformation is taking place. For the first time, Census operations are being carried out in digital mode, ensuring improved accuracy, faster data availability, and enhanced monitoring. A crucial part of this transition is the preparation of Digital Layout Maps and the geo-tagging of all buildings within each Houselisting Block (HLB)," it says.

It adds that the DLM app replicates the traditional methodology followed by supervisors and enumerators for drawing notional sketches for houselisting blocks, the primary unit for data collection, while introducing digital efficiency, accuracy, and real-time monitoring capabilities.

The app will record building coordinates (latitude and longitude for each structure), the names of localities, roads or streets, building numbers (if available; otherwise, temporary Census house numbers will be assigned by enumerators), building names (if available), building type (pucca or kutcha), building use (residential, partly residential, and non-residential), landmarks (mandatory), number of floors, and number of Census houses.

The description emphasised that "no personal information of the residents/occupants of the buildings are collected through this app."

The description for the House Listing Operation app says it was developed as part of the Census of India 2027 to modernise and streamline the data collection process. Both phases of the Census – houselisting and population enumeration – will be completed between April 1, 2026 and February 28, 2027.

Congress takes dig at Centre as Trump repeats peace claim

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Party leader Jairam Ramesh lists cities where U.S. President has talked about India-Pak. ceasefire

The Congress on Thursday took a swipe at the Narendra Modi government after U.S. President Donald Trump once again claimed that India and Pakistan had "made peace" following his threat to withdraw trade deals.

The Opposition party said this was the 58th time he had repeated the assertion.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, in a post on social media platform X, listed some of the cities where President Trump talked about the ceasefire.

"What unites Washington DC, Riyadh, Doha, London, The Hague, Sharm-al-Sheikh, Tokyo, Air Force One, and now Miami?" Mr. Ramesh said, adding, "These are all places where President Trump has declared he used trade and tariffs to stop Operation Sindoor. This makes it 58 times since the evening of May 10 when he first announced the end of Operation Sindoor from Washington DC."

Mr. Ramesh also shared a clip of President Trump's latest comments from Miami, where he told the America Business Forum that his threat of tariffs forced India and Pakistan to halt hostilities.

"You know, I was in the midst of a trade deal with both of them (India and Pakistan), and then I read on the front page of a certain newspaper... I heard they were going to war...," Mr. Trump said.

"I said, this is war, and they are going at it. And they are two nuclear nations. I said, 'I'm not going to make any trade deals with you guys unless you agree to peace.'... A day later, I get a call saying, 'We made peace'. They stopped," the American President said amid applause.

Since May 10, when President Trump first claimed to have mediated a ceasefire between the two nuclear-armed neighbours, he has repeated the statement multiple times. India, however, has consistently rejected any suggestion of third party intervention in its disputes with Pakistan.

This is unfair to the court, says CJI to request on Attorney-General's behalf for adjournment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai

R. Venkataramani

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Thursday did not take well to a request made on behalf of Attorney-General R. Venkataramani to adjourn a case challenging the Tribunal Reforms Act of 2021, marking the second time in the past few days the top judge expressed displeasure at the government's foremost legal counsel and the highest law officer in the country.

"This is unfair to the court," Chief Justice Gavai addressed Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, who sought the adjournment for the Attorney General (A-G).

The case was vital and required the A-G's assistance, Ms. Bhati said. Mr. Venkataramani had requested an accommodation from the court as he was engaged in an international arbitration, she said.

But the judges had spent time going through the files of the case, Chief Justice Gavai pointed out.

"We have accommodated him twice... If you want to keep the matter to be listed after November 24, tell us frankly that," the Chief Justice, visibly annoyed, asked Ms. Bhati.

Retiring on Nov. 24

Chief Justice Gavai is retiring from office on November 24.

Recently, the Chief Justice had asked if the Attorney-General's suggestion to refer the case to a larger Bench was a "tactic". Mr. Venkataramani had politely urged the CJI that it was not so.

When Ms. Bhati asked the court to list the case on Monday, the CJI, while noting that the court had the highest respect for the Attorney-General, responded that part-heard matters had to be given first priority.

The CJI remarked that hearings could not be adjourned in this manner when the court had cleared its board to give a case priority.

"We had not posted any other matter tomorrow with a view that we would finish the (Madras Bar Association) matter tomorrow to utilise Saturday and Sunday for the judgment... Now, when do we write the judgment? This week also we cannot write the judgment," the CJI said orally during the hearing.

Left Unity sweeps JNUSU polls, wins all four posts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a resounding victory for student Left politics, the Left Unity alliance swept all four central panel posts in the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) election on Thursday, with women candidates winning three posts.

The united front of three major Left organisations – AISA, SFI and DSF – made a clean sweep, leaving the RSS-backed ABVP trailing across all positions.

Aditi Mishra was elected president with 1,937 votes, by defeating ABVP's Vikas Patel, who got 1,488 votes.

India to question citizens who worked in Myanmar's cyberscam compounds

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

People who worked in a scam centre in Myawaddy travel by boat across the Moei river to Thailand last month. AFP

Indian citizens who worked in the cyberscam compounds of Myanmar will be "questioned" about their activities during their employment period, official sources said on Thursday as India brought back 270 nationals who had earlier taken refuge in Thailand after fleeing the scam centres of Myawaddy, where the Myanmar military carried out operations in the last week of October.

On Thursday evening, two special flights operated by the Indian Air Force flew back 270 Indian nationals, including 26 women, from Chiang Mai in Thailand to the Hindon airbase in Uttar Pradesh. These individuals were among hundreds of international workers who were forced to leave the cyber scam centres that were operating out of Myawaddy.

Officials said that the people who are being flown back will not be allowed to go back home immediately as the relevant investigating agencies are trying to find out more details about how they ended up there and what activities they were participating in.

"The idea behind the questioning is not just about finding out how these scam centres operate but also to find out how to prevent similar people from joining such transnational networks," said a source. The official further said that the investigation would look into the Indian links and possible accomplices of these networks and how they recruit young men and women to fly to such locations.

"Indian embassies in Thailand and Myanmar are working... to secure repatriation of those Indians who were allegedly involved in scamming activities and are still in Myanmar," said the Indian embassy in Bangkok on Thursday, indicating that there are more Indian nationals who remain employed in the cyberscam outfits.

Will not fill SIR form till all in West Bengal complete it: Mamata

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee

Refuting reports that she personally received enumeration forms from a booth-level officer, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said she would not fill her form for the ongoing special intensive revision process till everyone in West Bengal had done so.

A day after a BLO visited her official residence, Ms. Banerjee took to social media to deny reports "by a section of media" that she had stepped out and received the form in person.

"Yesterday, a designated BLO came to our neighbourhood to do the work. During his work, he visited my residence and enquired about how many voters were there and gave the forms," she wrote in a post on social media.

"A section of the media has written that I stepped out of my residence and received the enumeration form personally. This is entirely false and misleading," she said. "Until each and every one from Bengal fills up their form, I will not do so."

The remarks by the Chief Minister come as the SIR of electoral rolls is under way in the State. On November 4, Ms. Banerjee had led a rally in Kolkata against the SIR exercise.

Meanwhile, Election Commission officials said about 1.73 crore enumeration forms had been distributed in the State by 4 p.m. on Thursday.

During the day, senior EC officials visited Alipurduar district to review progress of the SIR exercise.

Indian Navy commissions survey vessel *INS Ikshak*

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The third vessel of the Survey Vessel Large (SVL) class, *INS Ikshak*, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at a ceremonial event held at Naval Base in Kochi on Thursday.

The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff. On arrival at the venue, the Navy chief was accorded a 50-men guard of honour.

The Navy stated that the commissioning marks a significant step in strengthening India's hydrographic survey and maritime operational capabilities. The ship is capable of operating as a platform for humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and medical support operations as well.

INS Ikshak is also the first SVL designed with dedicated women's accommodation, reflecting the Navy's commitment to inclusivity.

Accused should get grounds of arrest in known language: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a significant verdict on Thursday, held that arrested persons must be furnished with the grounds of arrest in writing in a language they understand, irrespective of the nature of the offence or statute involved.

The Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih held that the grounds of arrest must be "supplied in writing within a reasonable time, and in any case two hours prior to the production of the arrestee before the Magistrate for remand proceedings".

"Mere communication of the grounds in a language not understood by the person arrested does not fulfil the Constitutional mandate under Article 22 of the Constitution of India...," the top court observed. In case of non-compliance, the arrest and subsequent remand would be rendered illegal and the person would be set free, the court directed. Justice Masih authored the verdict.

APPEAL

Ms. Sanjivani Kesharwani, UHID No.13835558, 9-years old daughter of Mr. Satishkumar Kesharwani admitted Fortis Memorial Research Institute. She has been diagnosed with Beta Thalassemia. She has a potential matched unrelated donor & requires stem cell transplant as curative therapy. The estimated cost of the transplant is approximate Rs.30,00,000/-.

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Sanjivani Kesharwani, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION

Women power: Voters waiting in a queue at a polling station at Danapur in Patna on Thursday. PTI

CM's vote: Bihar Chief Minister and Janata Dal(U) leader Nitish Kumar after voting in Patna. ANI

Voting together: Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad and his family at a polling station in Patna. ANI

Moment to cherish: A voter clicking a photo at a selfie booth after casting her vote in Patna. ANI

Taking on: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of spreading hatred among the people to win elections. PTI

PM unleashed real 'jungle raj' by misusing agencies: Rahul

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Election Commission while addressing poll rallies in Bihar on Thursday.

Mr. Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said Mr. Modi "only knows how to spread hatred", adding that the Prime Minister's "heart is filled with hatred" and he engages "in pitting people against each other in the name of religion and caste".

Ms. Vadra alleged that the BJP and the poll panel are "colluding to rig the elections, take away voting rights and attack the Constitution".

Responding to charges of 'jungle raj' levelled by the NDA against the *Mahagatbandhan*, Mr. Gandhi said in Araria that the "actual jungle raj" has been unleashed by Mr. Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah across the country from Delhi through the "misuse" of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Income Tax (IT) Department to intimidate people.

'Will form government'

Mr. Gandhi said Bihar would have a Grand Alliance government after the election, and said it would represent all sections of society. He said the government would generate employment, provide quality education, and ensure better health facilities. "If the youth of Bihar can work across the country and build some of the finest cities, why can't they be provided opportunities in the State itself," he asked.

The Congress leader said the tourist circuit would be developed to directly benefit the people. He said it would create employment opportunities for the youth.

Mr. Gandhi asked people to remain vigilant so that the "BJP does not steal the elections in the State as it did in Haryana, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh". In Purnia, he said: "I showed how Narendra Modi, Amit Shah, and the Election Commission are committing 'vote theft'. I presented such evidence that neither the BJP nor the Election Commission could respond."

Ms. Vadra addressed two public meetings in the Riga and Benipatti Assembly constituencies, and alleged that Mr. Modi "wants to buy votes by giving ₹10,000" before the elections.

"Today, there is migration and poverty in Bihar. People go to other States to earn for their families, but Modi and Nitish do not see this. For 20 years, the NDA government has been in power, but Modi has never even gone to any village in Bihar to know the condition of the people. They don't care about the public at all," she said in Riga.

In Benipatti, Ms. Vadra asked people to "remember three names" – Chief Election Commissioner of India Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sindhu and Vivek Joshi – and alleged that they "stole people's votes".

She alleged that the BJP-JD(U) combine had pushed Bihar into the "swamp of unemployment, migration, paper leaks, and hooliganism". Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and INDIA bloc chief ministerial face Tejashwi Yadav addressed public meetings in 18 Assembly constituencies which will go to the polls in the second phase on November 11.

In Bihar, Modi and Shah accuse RJD, Congress of protecting infiltrators

Shah claims that infiltrators snatch jobs from Indian youth, demand a share in the rations of the poor, and make the country insecure; Prime Minister highlights infighting in Opposition alliance, lashes out at RJD's 'jungle raj', he also lists development work done by the NDA in the State

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

As the first phase of the Bihar election began on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah lashed out at the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress, accusing them of protecting infiltrators. Both leaders were in Bihar to hold rallies in the constituencies which will go to the polls in the second phase on November 11.

Addressing a public meeting in Araria, Mr. Modi said that the big challenge on Bihar's growth journey is the menace of infiltration. "The NDA is committed to driving out each and every infiltrator from the country. But the Congress-RJD offer them protection, take out political yatras in their favour and come up with misleading narratives," the Prime Minister said, in an indirect reference to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Voter Adhikar Yatra and allegations of "vote theft".

"Whenever the RJD-Congress achieve power, they try to give back-door entry to infiltrators. They do so because of vote bank politics," he added.

Mr. Modi alleged that the RJD-Congress combine in Bihar have a soft corner for 'infiltrators', but "dislike" Lord Ram and 'Chhathi Maiya' because of vote bank politics that has filled Opposition leaders with contempt for traditions.

"The *naamdaar* of the Congress [Mr. Gandhi] called the devotion to Chhathi Maiya a drama. They never visit Ayodhya to have a darshan of Lord Sri Ram," he said. "I understand their dislike for Lord Ram. But they can at least pay obeisance at the shrines dedicated to Nishad Raj, Shabri Mata, and Maharshi Valmiki. Their reluctance to do so only indicates their hatred for Dalits and backward classes."

'Snatch jobs'

Mr. Shah also lashed out at Mr. Gandhi's Voter Adhikar Yatra, indicating it was meant to help "infiltrators". "Should we remove the infiltrators from Bihar's voter list or not? Recently, Rahul Gandhi took out a 'Save the Infiltrators' campaign. He says that infiltrators should be allowed to remain in the voter list," he alleged.

Hitting out: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeting people at a rally in Bhagalpur on Thursday. ANI

"These infiltrators snatch jobs from our youth, demand a share in the rations of the poor, and also make the country insecure. Today, from the land of Ramnagar, I want to tell Rahul Gandhi, carry out as many campaigns as you want, hold as many press conferences as you want, the BJP will work to remove every single infiltrator from across the country and from Bihar," he said.

Apart from the Ramnagar event, he addressed rallies in Motihari and Benipatti constituencies.

Mr. Shah asserted that BJP legislators had worked to establish a Makhana Board so that Bihar's makhana farmers could send their produce to the whole world. "Can Lalu-Rahul do that? If Lalu-Rahul comes to power, they will establish an Infiltrator Board to protect these infiltrators," he alleged.

In 10 years in power, former PM Manmohan Singh visited Bihar only five times, Mr. Shah said, claiming that Mr. Modi had visited Bihar 55 times in his decade in power.

Mr. Modi accused the RJD of inculcating a culture of lawlessness during their earlier rule of the State. "During the Jungle Raj rule of 1990 to 2005, the development report card was zero. They ruined Bihar. In the name of running the government, people were robbed." He said Jungle Raj meant a bad culture of pistols, cruelty, bitterness, corruption, and misgovernance.

In contrast, the PM said, the NDA government had brought development to the State. "Today, Bihar has so many expressways, bridges over rivers, as many as four Central universities and other centres of higher learning. Only the NDA can ensure that this journey towards growth continues uninterrupted," he said.

Opposition infighting

He said there was infighting in the Opposition alliance between the Congress and the RJD. "After elections, all these INDI Alliance partners will be seen breaking each other's heads," he said. "The fight between the RJD and Congress has reached such a level that now their deputy CM candidate is speaking up against 'jungle raj'," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister accused the Congress and RJD of dividing Bihar society. "The RJD plunged Bihar into caste riots, while the Congress instigated religious riots. The stain of the Bhagalpur riots can never be washed away by the Congress. Just as the stain of the Sikh massacre cannot be erased from the Congress," he added.

Broken roads take them to booth: gritty voters brave the odds to cast their vote

Press Trust of India
DARBHANGA/MUNGER

Far from the election campaigns and high-decibel claims of political parties, the first phase of the 2025 Bihar Assembly election on Thursday captured both the grit of voters and the gaps that successive governments have failed to plug.

In the Kusheshwar Asthan constituency of Darbhanga, voters braved flooded roads and difficult terrain to cast their votes, many with their children in tow. "What is this? This is water! If someone breaks a leg or gets hurt, who will accept the responsibility," an agitated voter asked.

Residents claimed that bricks had been hurriedly placed just a day earlier to create a semblance of a pathway. "When they needed votes, they laid these bricks here. Otherwise, people used to wade through water to reach here," said another elector in Bhojpuri.

Behind the frustration lies a deeper pain: the story of migration, running like a fault line through the region. "Our sons go to Delhi and Punjab to work, and there is no one who cares. If the government provided some employment here, they would stay here in the village," said a voter.

Joint effort: People carrying an elderly person on a cot to a polling station at Danapur on Thursday. PTI

Relief in Munger

In Munger's Bhimbandh, part of the Maoism-hit Tarapur seat, residents queued up with relief and excitement as a polling booth had finally returned to their village after 20 years. The booth, officials said, was shifted elsewhere after a deadly 2005 incident in which seven police personnel were killed.

"In 2005, we heard an incident took place in Tarapur where seven police personnel were killed. Since then, voting here had stalled. This time, the arrangements here are good. Central Reserve Police Force [CRPF] personnel are alert, patrolling has been organised, and voting is peaceful," senior magistrate Ashok Kumar told presspersons.

For elderly voter Vishnu Dev Singh, it was a moment heavy with memory. "I had voted here in 2005 or before that. After that, for 20 years, we used to vote at a booth outside the village because of forest and Naxal problems. Today, it feels good to vote again in my village," he said.

Women in the village recalled the hardship of the earlier trek. "When I was working, I had to cross the forest to go and vote in Gaighat. It was very difficult.," said Neelam Devi. "This time, the booth is closer."

NDA will win by record margins, says Chouhan

Press Trust of India
JEHANABAD

Asserting that the NDA was heading for a "record-breaking victory", Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had already started preparing "excuses" for an impending defeat with his "vote *chori*" allegations.

Speaking to presspersons here, Mr. Chouhan said Mr. Gandhi's repeated allegations of "vote *chori*" were an admission that the people favoured the NDA.

"A day before polling, Mr. Gandhi started searching for excuses, talking about 'vote *chori*'. He knows the people of Bihar stand firmly with development, welfare, good governance and women's empowerment," he said.

"Mr. Gandhi did not campaign seriously, and he spent his time catching fish," he said. Mr. Chouhan claimed that the NDA's victory in the elections was evident on the ground.

"The NDA candidates will win by record margins. Even Tejashwi Yadav has admitted it. On the last day of campaigning, he abandoned his own manifesto because the ground slipped from under his feet," he said.

Cong. accuses NDA of neglecting Bhagalpur, Seemanchal region

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jairam Ramesh

The Congress on Thursday accused the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government of making "false" promises and neglecting the development of Bhagalpur, and the Seemanchal region, asserting that the people would "respond this time with the power of their votes".

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh asked why the "double engine government" had left Seemanchal in such a state of neglect. "*Pradhan Mantri ka jhooth sabse mazboot* [PM's lie is strongest]! Today, the Prime Minister is coming to Bhagalpur and Seemanchal. On this occasion, we want to remind him of some of his past false promises and ask him a few direct questions," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X.

Mr. Ramesh recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2015 promise of building the Vikramshila Central University in Bhagalpur at a cost of ₹500 crore on 500 acres. "Ten years later, not even a single brick has been laid. Did Vikramshila also vanish like the ₹1.25 lakh crore package?" he said.

"In 2014, the Prime Minister confidently declared about the Motihari Sugar Mill: 'Next time I visit, I will drink tea made with sugar from this mill.' Eleven years have passed. People are still waiting for that tea," he said, referring to another assurance. Mr. Ramesh also cited the delay in the promised Darbhanga All India Institute of Medical Sciences project.

'Suffer extreme poverty'

Quoting reports from the NITI Aayog and the Asian Development Research Institute, Mr. Ramesh said Seemanchal continued to suffer from "extreme poverty and neglect", with over 50% of its population living in multidimensional poverty.

He said that people of Seemanchal and Bhagalpur "will answer this neglect by defeating the NDA with their votes".

INBRIEF

President Murmu lauds world champion women's team

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday congratulated the Indian women cricket team for creating history by winning the World Cup and said they have become role models for the younger generation, especially girls. Ms. Murmu met the members of the team who won the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, where skipper Harmanpreet Kaur presented her a team jersey signed by all the players. "The younger generation, especially girls, will be inspired to move ahead in life," Ms. Murmu was quoted as saying in a statement issued by her office. She expressed confidence that the team will keep Indian cricket at the top in the future as well. PTI

DRI busts illegal alprazolam factory in Gujarat; four held

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized alprazolam worth ₹22 crore after uncovering a clandestine factory manufacturing the psychotropic substance in Gujarat's Valsad district. Four persons, including financiers, manufacturers, and a recipient of the drug, have been arrested, officials said on Tuesday. According to a DRI release, the operation, code-named "Operation White Cauldron," was launched based on specific intelligence inputs. The search led to the recovery of 9.55 kg of alprazolam in finished form, 104.15 kg of semi-finished product, and 431 kg of raw materials, including key precursor chemicals.

Airlines report 'severe' GPS spoofing over Delhi for 7 days

Such occurrences have been reported within a 60-nautical-mile radius of the capital, resulting in false navigation data, say pilots and ATC personnel; DGCA inquiring into reports, says official

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Aircraft flying over Delhi have been experiencing "severe" GPS spoofing over the past week, causing false navigation data such as incorrect aircraft positions and misleading terrain warnings, according to pilots and air traffic control (ATC) sources.

"The Directorate General of Civil Aviation [DGCA] is seized of the matter," a top government official said, adding that they were enquiring into the incidents. A meeting was held between S.K. Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, and Faiz Kidwai, Director-General, DGCA, on Thursday evening.

Such occurrences have been reported within a 60-nautical-mile radius of Delhi over the past week, according to an air traffic controller. Another ATC official said the disruptions often required manual intervention, with controllers providing direct navigation guidance to cockpit crew.

A pilot with a leading airline said he had encountered GPS spoofing on all six days he operated flights last week. During one approach to Delhi airport, his cockpit systems even issued a false terrain warning, suggesting obstacles ahead where none existed. Others encountered a similar warning while taking off from the airport. This has also caused flight delays at the busy airport.

A pilot with a leading airline says he encountered GPS spoofing on all six days he operated flights last week. GETTY IMAGES

The above sources explained that while it was common to experience GPS spoofing over India's border with Pakistan, such incidents over Delhi were unusual. There wasn't any advisory alerting pilots and controllers to military exercise in the vicinity of Delhi requiring them to exercise caution.

Type of cyberattack

Spoofing is a type of cyberattack that transmits false GPS signals to mislead navigation systems.

The global airlines body, the International Air Transport Association (IATA), and the United Nation's aviation safety watchdog, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), have warned that these disruptions pose a significant and growing threat to aviation safety.

In December 2024, an Embraer 190 operating an Azerbaijan Airlines passenger flight from Baku to Grozny, Russia, was struck and severely damaged by a Russian surface-to-air missile, killing 38 of 67 onboard. Russian President Vladimir Putin apologised to his Azerbaijani counterpart, Ilham Aliyev, for what he called a "tragic incident".

Between 2021 and 2024, reported cases of GPS signal loss surged by 220%, according to IATA's data.

The Ministry told Parliament in March that as many as 465 GPS interference and spoofing incidents were reported in the border region, mostly in the Amritsar and Jammu areas, between November 2023 and February 2025. In November 2023, the DGCA directed airlines to establish standard operating procedures and submit bi-monthly reports on spoofing incidents.

GPS spoofing in itself doesn't hamper the safety of an aircraft, as aircraft systems are built with several redundancies, including the Inertial Reference System that's also used for navigation, which continue to operate safely for up to five hours even if a primary system fails.

ED summons Anil Ambani again in 'bank fraud' case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The agency had recorded Anil Ambani's statement in August.

The Enforcement Directorate has again summoned Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani to record his statement on November 14 in connection with an alleged bank fraud case, according to agency sources.

The ED is probing the money-laundering angle in a case against Reliance Communication Ltd. (RCom) regarding an alleged ₹2,929-crore loan fraud, based on a first information report registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation in August. Among those mentioned is Mr. Ambani.

A spokesperson for Mr. Ambani had earlier said that the complaint, filed by the State Bank of India (SBI), was related to matters that occurred over 10 years ago, at a time when he was a non-executive director of the company, not involved in its day-to-day management.

"It is pertinent to note that the SBI, by its own order, has already withdrawn proceedings against five other non-executive directors. Despite this, Mr. Ambani has been selectively singled out," the statement said. The ED conducted searches in July and recorded Mr. Ambani's statement later in August.

Assets attached

The agency had recently attached assets worth about ₹7,500 crore, allegedly linked to the Reliance Anil Ambani Group, in connection with investigations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The assets include over 132 acres of land in the Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City in Navi Mumbai, worth over ₹4,462 crore.

"From around 2010-12 onwards, RCom and its group companies raised thousands of crores from Indian banks, of which ₹19,694 crore still remains outstanding. These assets turned NPA (non-performing assets), with five banks having declared RCom's loan accounts as fraud," the ED said, alleging diversion of funds.

ED attaches assets worth ₹11.14 crore linked to Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth ₹11.14 crore linked to former Indian cricketers Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan in a case pertaining to 1xBet.

"The attachment includes mutual fund investments worth ₹6.64 crore held in the name of Suresh Raina and an immovable property valued at ₹4.5 crore held in the name of Shikhar Dhawan," the agency said on Thursday.

The ED investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) is based on multiple cases registered by various State police agencies against the operators of the alleged illegal offshore betting platform, 1xBet.

The probe under PMLA is based on multiple cases against the operators of 'illegal' offshore betting platform, 1xBet.

"The investigation has revealed that 1xBet and its surrogate brand 1xBat, 1xbat Sporting lines were engaged in promoting and facilitating illegal online betting and gambling operations across India," the agency said. "Both Suresh Raina and Shikhar Dhawan knowingly entered into endorsement agreements with foreign entities for the promotion of 1xBet through its surrogates," the ED said.

"These endorsements were made in return for payments routed through foreign entities to conceal the illicit origin of the funds, which are linked to proceeds of crime generated from illegal betting activities," it said.

It alleged that 1xBet operated in India without authorisation and used surrogate branding and advertisements to target Indian users through social media, online videos, and print media. Payments for endorsements were structured through layered transactions using foreign intermediaries to disguise the illegal source of funds, the ED said.

CAG plans to create two new cadres for more centralisation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) of India has granted in-principle approval for the creation of two new specialised cadres for more centralisation.

These cadres are within its Indian Audit and Accounts Department, and they will be called the Central Revenue Audit (CRA) Cadre and the Central Expenditure Audit (CEA) Cadre.

Explaining the benefits of centralisation, K. Subramaniam, Deputy Auditor General (Human Resources, Industrial Relations, Content Delivery Network), said specialisation in the cadre of the CRA and the CEA will lead to deeper domain expertise in revenue and expenditure audits.

"This reform, which will come into effect from 1st January 2026, aims to build deeper professional expertise and further improve the quality of audit of Central Government finances," according to a press statement issued by CAG.

At present, the audit of Central receipts and expenditure is undertaken by multiple offices with cadre control dispersed across multiple State Civil Audit offices leading to fragmentation. The new cadres will consolidate over 4,000 audit professionals out of the total strength of the CAG at 42,000. This measure will also help reduce dependence on deployment and manage manpower in a more flexible manner.

Officers in both cadres will be liable for all-India transfers.

(With PTI inputs)

U.S. deports promoter of Indian 'realty firm' accused of swindling ₹2,000 crore

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The ED is conducting probes under PMLA against the firm with respect to 81 FIRs registered at various police stations

Praveen Kumar Kapoor, the co-founder and promoter of realty firm SRS Group, has been deported by the United States to India in a case that alleges the group cheated investors and banks to the tune of ₹2,200 crore, the Enforcement Directorate said on Thursday.

According to the agency, based on an Interpol Red Notice published at the behest of the ED, Mr. Kapoor was denied entry at Newark International Airport and his B1/B2 visa was cancelled by the U.S. authorities. He was subsequently deported to Delhi on November 2, where he was held on the basis of a 'lookout circular' issued by the agency.

The ED is conducting investigations under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act against the SRS Group with respect to 81 first information reports registered at various police stations across Faridabad, Delhi, and with the CBI.

"The group has been accused of cheating investors and banks to the tune of ₹2,200 crore," said the ED, adding that the accused persons/entities lured investors promising high returns on investments in residential/commercial projects. Funds from these investments were deposited into hundreds of shell companies created by the SRS Group and subsequently laundered. A provisional attachment order for ₹2,215.98 crore has already been issued in this case," it said. Mr. Kapoor has been absconding along with two other promoter-directors of the SRS Group, Jitender Kumar Garg, and Sunil Jindal, for several years. He was made an accused in the prosecution complaint filed by the ED before a special court in Gurugram. The court took cognisance of the prosecution's complaint, and charges are being framed against the accused.

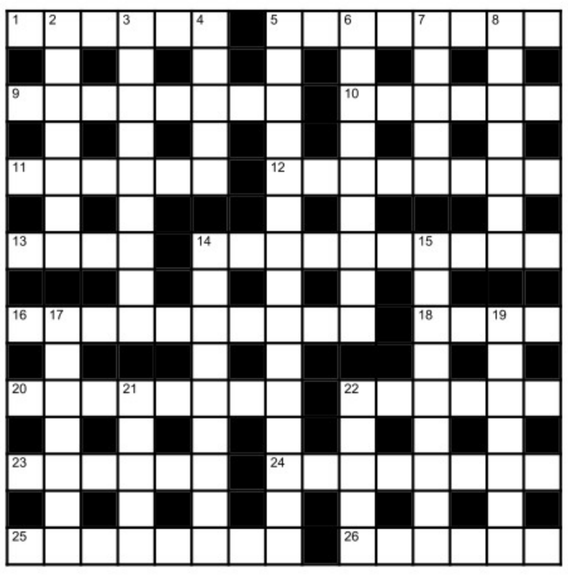
"Efforts are under way to secure the return/extradition of the other absconding promoter-directors," an official said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14633

(set by Saral)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Flier and mother right at home (6)
5 Catch off-guard uprisers in a riot (8)
9 To begin with build a compound for church (8)
10 Take care of one short tissue (6)
11 Criminal spoofer leaving electronic evidences (6)
12 Descriptions in record by theist altered (8)
13 Missiles, mostly from commander is returned (4)
14 Kind of second grade awful novel hidden by teen perhaps (10)
16 He smirks naughtily engaging one soprano in arguments (10)
18 Huge tank guarding borders finally (4)
20 Potential loser using drug? Gone! (8)
22 Effect of fantastic lustre (6)
23 Shoot girl with clip (6)
24 Wonderful food! My best recipe originated primarily in continent (8)
25 Judges later managed to review reports (8)
26 Some drank arak in Turkish city (6)

Down

2 Am following a gran setting this type of clue (7)
3 Flag in court I roll almost roughly (9)
4 Catches mollusc with head down (5)
5 Rats! He's sneaking deceptively, a treacherous person (5,2,3,5)
6 Fetches bush with local officials of town as per Spooner (9)
7 Not opening section in estate (5)
8 Cut down fresh thorns around trees essentially (7)
14 Covers crown put up in unseen area (5,4)
15 Vet locks initially ill collapsing farm animals (9)
17 Kelvin with articles about DNA editing in this language (7)
19 Without hesitation orderlies working for army man (7)
21 Mathematician's base rule is complex (5)
22 Plant among shrub I added (5)

SUDOKU

		9					7	
	2		3	5	1			9
6		1			7	8		3
	6							2
			2		4			
9							8	
2		7	4			9		8
5			1	8	3		4	
	4					5		

No.SS6693 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

E	M	B	R	Y	O		B	R	I	C	K	B	A	T
Y		E		O				U		U		O		Y
E	N	G	A	G	E			B	E	A	T	E	N	U	P
W		U		I		O		S		N		E		H
A	R	M	I	N	A	R	M		B	O	O	H	O	O
S				I		L		O		I		E		O
H	A	L	E		L	E	P	R	E	C	H	A	U	N
		I		D		A		D		E		D		
C	O	F	F	I	N	N	A	I	L		O	S	L	O
A		E		A		S		N		T				M
S	A	L	U	T	E		H	A	R	R	I	D	A	N
H		I		R		D		L		I		O		I
C	O	N	N	I	V	E	S		C	O	B	W	E	B
O		E		B		L				D		N		U
W	A	S	T	E	B	I	N		B	E	A	S	T	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	9	3	1	5	6	2	8	4
6	2	8	7	4	9	1	3	5
5	4	1	8	2	3	7	9	6
8	1	7	6	3	5	9	4	2
9	5	6	4	1	2	3	7	8
2	3	4	9	8	7	6	5	1
3	8	9	5	6	1	4	2	7
1	7	5	2	9	4	8	6	3
4	6	2	3	7	8	5	1	9

FAITH

Destruction of pride

There is a temple for Lord Murugan in Thirupporur, near Chennai, where the deity is called Kandaswami. Murugan appeared in the dream of a devotee called Chidambara Swamigal and told him to install His idol. Swamigal found the Thirupporur Murugan idol in a palm leaf box and built a temple for the idol. The palm leaf box is also worshipped in the temple. There is no *abhisheka* for the *moolava murthi*. *Abhisheka* is for a *yantra* bearing the many names of Muruga. Muruga is seen with features of the Trimurthis, explained Desa Mangaiyarkarasi in a discourse. He has an *akshara mala* and a pot, like Brahma. His *abhaya hasta* shows that He saves His devotees like Lord Siva.

Por in Tamil means battle. The place is called Thirupporur because Murugan waged a battle against Soorapadman here. Murugan killed Soorapadman's brothers Tarakasuran and Singamukhan, before He killed Soorapadman. There is a symbolism behind the slaying of the three asuras. Saiva Siddhanta talks of three impurities – *aanavam*, *kanmam*, and *maayai*. *Aanavam* is ego, or pride. *Kanmam* is karma acquired through our actions, resulting in repeated births. *Maayai* is illusion. For an *atma* to attain *moksha*, these three impurities have to be destroyed. Without the destruction of pride, there can be no *moksha*. However, before pride is vanquished, *kanmam* and *maayai* need to be taken care of. Tarakasura was symbolic of *maayai*. So this was Muruga's first target. He then turned His attention to Singamukhan, who symbolised *kanmam*. Finally He killed Soorapadman, who symbolised pride. The final battle against ego was fought in the sky in Thirupporur.

INBRIEF

M&M exits RBL Bank with $77 million stake sale

Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) sold its entire 3.5% stake in RBL Bank for ₹6.78billion ($77.1 million), it said, marking a 62.5% return on the 2023 investment. At the time of acquisition, CEO Anish Shah said the move was aimed at gaining deeper insights into banking over a 7-10-year period and would be maintained unless a strategic opportunity emerged. Analysts had questioned the rationale behind the investment, given Mahindra's core focus on automobiles. REUTERS

SBI to divest 6.3% stake in SBI Fund Management via IPO

State Bank of India (SBI), said it has decided to divest 3,20,60,000 equity shares, being equivalent to 6.3007% of total equity capital of SBI Funds Management Ltd. (SBIFML) through an initial public offering (IPO). Amundi India Holding, the other promoter of SBIFML, will divest 1,88,30,000 equity shares, being equivalent to 3.7006% of the total equity capital of SBIFML, with a total of 10.0013% stake comprising 5,08,90,000 shares to be listed.

India's Oct. services growth eases to 5-month low: PMI

India's dominant services sector saw expansion falter to a five-month low in October, as competitive pressures and heavy rains dampened the robust pace of growth seen in recent months, as per a survey. While new business continued to rise sharply, the slowdown highlights emerging headwinds for Asia's third-largest economy expected to grow 6.7% this fiscal year from 6.5% last year. REUTERS

Talks on with RBI, lenders for big, world class banks, says FM

You need an ecosystem and also an environment in which more lenders can operate and grow, according to Nirmala Sitharaman

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

People power: To sustain high growth, we must invest in people, says Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. PTI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the Centre is holding discussions with the lenders and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for creating a 'lot of big and world-class banks.'

"We will have to sit and talk with the Reserve Bank and also with the banks themselves to see how they want to take it forward and also discuss with the RBI about how they have an idea of taking or idea of building larger banks," she said at an event.

"That work has already commenced. We are discussing with RBI, we are discussing with banks."

"It is not by creating from among those which exist today just by amalgamation, that can also be one of the ways but you need an ecosystem and also an environment in which more banks can operate and operate to grow," she emphasised.

"So, that environment is actually well established in India but I need it to be a bit more timely. So, some work is happening on it."

Since 2017, the government had been facilitating merger of public sector banks to become stronger and further consolidation is on. Under regulatory supervision, private lenders are being strengthened and foreign banks are being encouraged to invest in Indian banks to improve capital base as well as bring in higher levels of corporate governance and financial prudence into the banking ecosystem.

India is capable

To another question on the impact of global uncertainties and protectionism by way of tariffs on India, she said "I do not want to sound too ambitious or give a statement of overconfidence but I can very clearly see India has shown its capability. In spite of global uncertainties, people of India have responded to next generation GST reforms and every sector saw it even on the first day [September 22, 2025].

Earlier, she told the gathering the world was today facing slower globalisation, fragile supply chains and rising climate transition costs.

"These external shocks test the resilience of our economy and underline the need for stronger domestic capabilities and diversified trade partnerships.

"To sustain high growth, we must invest in people. Our workforce needs continuous upskilling and reskilling to meet the demands of emerging technologies and global competitiveness, ensuring higher labour productivity and better-quality jobs," the Finance Minister said.

LIC Q2 net rises 31% to ₹10,098 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for the second quarter ended September 30, reported a 31% year-on-year growth in consolidated net profit to ₹10,098 crore.

Net premium income at ₹1,26,930 crore increased by 5.5%.

Net profit for the half year ended September 30 rose by 16.36% to ₹21,040 crore compared with ₹18,082 crore. In terms of market share measured by First Year Premium Income (as per IRDAI), LIC continued to be the market leader in life insurance with overall lower market share of 59.41% for the half year ended September 30 compared with 61.07% in the year ago period.

Total Premium Income for the first six months was ₹2,45,680 crore compared with ₹2,33,671 crore a year ago, up 5.14%.

Net premium income rose 5.5% to ₹1,26,930 crore.

"From a business perspective during the first half of this year, LIC has once again demonstrated the successful implementation of its strategy pertaining to product and channel diversification, that we have been pursuing since our listing," said R. Doraiswamy, CEO & MD.

"We are very optimistic about the positive impact of the GST changes. We have ensured all intended benefits of GST changes are passed onto the customers," he added.

SEBI expands IPO anchor book size

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Markets regulator SEBI has amended rules, revamping the share-allocation framework for anchor investors in maiden public offerings, a move aimed at broadening the participation of domestic institutional investors such as mutual funds (MFs), insurance firms and pension funds.

Under this, SEBI raised total reservation in anchor portion to 40% from 33% earlier. This comprises 33% for MFs and 7% for insurers and pension funds.

If the 7% remains unsubscribed, it will be reallocated to mutual funds, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in a notification.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,311	-0.18
US Dollar	88.63	------
Gold	1,24,700	------
Brent oil	63.24	------

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2314.30	-105.50
Adani Ports	1436.80	-7.60
Apollo Hosp	7782.00	-28.50
Asian Paints	2602.90	116.20
Axis Bank	1228.50	1.90
Bajaj Auto	8720.50	-30.50
Bajaj Finserv	2063.20	-10.00
Bajaj Finance	1041.90	-15.10
Bharat Elec	408.80	-6.35
Bharti Airtel	2094.90	-18.40
Cipla	1501.50	-1.80
Coal India	373.15	-4.40
Dr Reddys Lab	1205.20	5.20
Tata Motors CV	260.75	0.00
Eicher Motors	6806.50	-123.50
Eternal Ltd.	305.65	-7.85
Grasim Ind	2700.10	-181.90
HCL Tech	1526.40	-2.70
HDFC Bank	984.65	-0.60
HDFC Life	736.05	-6.40
Hindalco	788.40	-43.00
Hind Unilever	2436.00	-9.70
ICICI Bank	1320.40	-16.50
IntGlobeAvi	5693.00	56.00
Infosys	1466.70	-1.20
ITC	407.50	-1.40
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	298.10	-3.80
JSW Steel	1168.80	-12.60
Kotak Bank	2083.20	-13.40
L&T	3881.60	-42.80
M&M	3618.50	37.30
Maruti Suzuki	15452.00	78.00
Max Healthcare	1125.40	-13.00
NestleIndia	1266.10	1.10
NTPC	326.65	-3.95
ONGC	251.50	-0.85
PowerGrid Corp	270.20	-8.85
Reliance Ind	1496.10	23.00
SBI Life	1970.80	-0.70
State Bank	960.75	3.15
Shriram Finance Ltd.	792.50	-4.00
Sun Pharma	1685.90	-4.10
TataConsumerProduct	1190.40	11.10
Tata Steel	177.27	-2.02
TCS	3010.90	20.70
Tech Mahindra	1413.60	4.40
Titan	3774.40	-39.10
Tata Motors PV	407.85	1.35
Trent Ltd.	4679.20	18.60
UltraTech Cement	11910.00	91.00
Wipro	240.05	2.13

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	88.45	88.78
Euro	101.93	102.32
British Pound	115.68	116.13
Japanese Yen (100)	57.54	57.77
Chinese Yuan	12.41	12.46
Swiss Franc	109.40	109.81
Singapore Dollar	67.78	68.05
Canadian Dollar	62.73	62.99
Malaysian Ringitt	21.12	21.25
Australian Dollar	57.59	57.81

Source:Indian Bank

India to unveil SAF national policy: Naidu

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Centre will soon release a national policy on Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu said, as he emphasised on India's unique position as an agriculture powerhouse to cater to the rising global demand for the fuel.

SAF refers to aviation fuel derived from non-fossil sources.

At a FICCI event, he said the global need for SAF was 2 million tonne which by 2040 would rise to 183 million tonne. "As an agricultural powerhouse with over 750 million tonne of available biomass, India has the capacity to become the global leader in SAF production".

India has a surplus of 213 million tonne of agricultural residue along with adequate manufacturing capacity, he said.

Ram Mohan Naidu

To achieve 1% blending of SAF by 2027, India will require 30 million litre, while the 2% target for 2028 translates to 62 million litre. Local oil makers collectively have an annual production capacity of 70 million litre. "We are well on course to meet the domestic demand and even emerge as a global production player in SAF".

Physicswallah is different, says CEO

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Top officials of ed-tech company Physicswallah Ltd.(PW) do not want any comparison with the industry's early entrant, Byju's. The firm's attention to reputation and low pricing differentiates them from 'the early players' CEO Alakh Pandey told the media while responding to queries on the differences between the two firms.

Price band

Physicswallah(PW) has fixed the price band for its ₹3,480-crore initial public offering, between ₹103 and ₹109 and can be bid in lots of 137 shares and multiples thereof.

Mr. Pandey stressed he did not want PW and "the other company," Byjus, to be compared as the latter "targeted India's premium parents, which is why their total addressable market was much smaller."

He asserted that their course, priced at around ₹4,000 or 1/20th of the ed-tech precursor.

YouTube videos

The company is an edtech provider which uses free YouTube videos on various test preparation topics and it is through this the students can choose to subscribe, founders asserted.

The company's IPO consists of a fresh issue of ₹3,100 crore with the balance being offer for sale. The company plans to use most of the proceeds of the IPO on marketing spend and capital expenditure for new offline centres.

The IPO opens on November 11 and closes November 13.

Apollo Hospitals Q2 net profit rises 26% to ₹477 crore

Apollo Hospitals on Thursday posted a 26% rise in its consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to ₹477 crore for the September quarter, aided by strong performance across healthcare services, retail and pharma distribution verticals.

Revenue increased to ₹6,304 crore against ₹5,589 crore a year ago. PTI

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE KOTA
No. 2693 Date 29.10.2025
Short Term NIT No. 37/2025-26
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2526A4072
Bids for **Budget Announcement Year 2025-26, Important Road & Atal Path Works in Kota District PWD Zone Kota** are invited **Road work** from interested bidders **upto 6.00 pm, 12.11.2025**. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the **Rajasthan** and **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** website.
The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 2695.04 lacs. (6 Works.)**
1. UBN No. 2526WSOB15799 2. UBN No. 2526WSOB15800
3. UBN No. 2526WLOB15801 4. UBN No. 2526WLOB15802
5. UBN No. 2526WSOB15803 6. UBN No. 2526WSOB15805
Addl. Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/16121/2025 **PWD Zone Kota**

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ANDHRA PRADESH URBAN FINANCE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Ltd., Vijayawada.
'e'-Procurement Notice
Tender Notice No: APUF-11036/4/2025-ENG SEC-APUFIDC, dated: 05.11.2025
The Managing Director, APUFIDC invites Expression of interest (EoI) for **Empanelment of Consultants for preparation of DPRs for Storm water Drainage System in various ULBs of Andhra Pradesh**.
Download start date & time: **07-11-2025 @ 11.00 AM.** Last Date/ Time of receipt of EoI: **17-11-2025 @ 5.00 PM.** Details can be seen @ **http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** & CDMA website Contact-**8688830866/ 7675836600.** Procurement Specialist, APUFIDC.
DIPR 4549PP/CL, Dt.05/112025

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION UDAIPUR
Tel. No. 0294-2481538, e-mail: ace.uda.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No/ACE/UDR/NIT_18(Udaipur Amrut)/2025-26/10565-574 Dated: 27/10/2025
Corrigendum-01
Following **Corrigendum** is hereby issued to this office **NIT No. 18/2025-26 (Work of Udaipur AMRUT 2.0) Old DIPR No. C/14454/2025** in regarding change in dates due to Rate Justification not finalized and submitted at competent level. Corrigendum can be seen in NIT exhibited on web site www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
UBN No. PHE2526WLOB06998 **(Shaitan Singh)**
Addl. Chief Engineer,
DIPR/C/15934/2025 **PHED, Region Udaipur**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 &13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58.
Fax: 080-28094180. Ph: 080-28094178, 4541
TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tender** is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for following works.

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/MECH/CON/ E-Tender-84/2025-2026 dated: 06.11.2025**
Name of work	**Replacement of 06 nos Passenger Lifts at 1E, 2D & 3C Block and CAMC of lift for 10 years at DOS ISRO Housing Colony Jalahalli, Bengaluru**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Part (a): Design, Fabrication, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Lift Works- Rs. 125.25 Lakhs** **Part (b): Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Lifts- Rs. 114.83 Lakhs**
Tender Document details	**E-Tender**
Period of Completion	**09 months for Part (a)** **10 Years for Part (b)**
Period during which tender documents can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs. on 07.11.2025 to 29.11.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid clarifications	**From 11.00 hrs. on 08.11.2025 to 30.11.2025 till 16.00 hrs**
Last date of reply to Bid clarification	**01.12.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**02.12.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
Due date & time of opening of tenders	**04.12.2025 after 11.00 hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 2,50,500.00**

For eligiblity criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and the tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**
Sd/-Group Head-CMG

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification No: U40109PB2010SGC033813,
Website : www.pspcl.in
Contact No. 96461-17633, Email: ase-civil-ghtp@pspcl.in
Tender Enquiry No. - 506/PCM-513/2025-26 Dated : 04.11.2025
e-Tender (Re-Tender)
Additional Superintending Engineer, Plant Civil Mtc. Cell, GHTP, Lehra Mohabat invites e-tender for Work contract for replacement of PVC fill blocks, supporting SS pipes, SS hangers and replacement of damaged beams etc. of Cooling Tower No. IV during shutdown in February 2026. For detailed NIT & tender specification, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **04.11.2025** from **12.00 PM** onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
GHTP-86/25 1079/12/2025-26/4763

Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora
Near Vikas Bhawan, Pandeykhola, Almora, Distt-Almora- 263601 (Uttarakhand)
e-mail - principal.gmcalmora@gmail.com http://www.ssjgimsralmora.org
Mob. No. +91 9456305966 Phone/Fax No. :- 05962-230557
Letter No.:-3508/GMCA/G-1/Advertisement/2022-23 Date: 06-11-2025
Walk-In-Interview
A Walk In Interview for various post of **"Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor"** for **Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora** will be held on dated **25th November, 2025 (Tuesday) at 10:00 am** onwards in the **"Office of the Principal, Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora".** Registration will be done on the day of interview till 01:00 pm only. The post will be filled on yearly renewal contract basis for a maximum period of **03 (three) years** or till regular appointment are made.
For further details please visit our **website:- http://www.ssjgimsralmora.org, www.medicaleducation.uk.gov.in & www.hnbumu.ac.in**
Principal
SSJ Gov. IMSR, Almora.

Large bank shareholders' voting cap said to remain

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India plans to retain a cap on voting rights for large shareholders in domestic banks, two sources said, signalling New Delhi's attempts to liberalise the financial sector and draw more foreign investment, will stay limited in scope.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the country's banking regulator, initiated a number of steps to unwind complex regulations in recent months and has permitted foreign lenders to pick up large stakes in domestic banks.

The government is also planning to more than double the foreign-investment cap in State-owned lenders to 49%, *Reuters* reported last week. However, rules for voting rights will not be eased yet, they said.

Foreign-investment cap in State-run banks may be raised.

As per current rules, a single shareholder cannot hold more than 26% voting rights in a private bank, even if their ownership is higher than that. For government-owned banks, that cap is 10%.

Excessive control issue

India's Federal Finance Ministry and the RBI discussed increasing the cap on voting rights to give large shareholders more say in strategic decisions but decided against it to avoid excessive control, said the first source.

The government wants safeguards like a cap on voting rights of 26% for a single shareholder to stay to avoid sole decision-making, said the first source.

DGT ropes in Autodesk to train ITI, NSTI faculty

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in collaboration with Autodesk will be offering training in advanced digital design to trainers and faculty members of National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in three years.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding, the training programme will cover over 14,500 ITIs and 33 NSTIs across India.

DHAKA

Bangladesh withdraws 'half of its troops' assisting civilian authorities

AFP

Bangladesh military withdrew "half of its troops" assisting civilian authorities in maintaining law and order, after military chiefs met Muhammad Yunus on November 1. The government cited rest and election training, while generals stressed soldiers' prolonged non-military duties and the need to resume regular roles. PTI

LILOAN

Philippines death toll tops 140 as typhoon heads towards Vietnam

REUTERS

Typhoon Kalmaegi has killed at least 142 and left another 127 missing after catastrophic floods in the central Philippines. Over 5,00,000 remain displaced. The typhoon is so far the globe's deadliest of 2025. President Ferdinand Marcos declared a "state of national calamity" as the storm heads toward Vietnam. AFP

WASHINGTON

Pelosi, the first female Speaker of U.S. House, announces retirement

AFP

Nancy Pelosi, a towering figure in United States politics and the first female speaker of the House of Representatives, announced on Thursday that she would be stepping down at the next election. "I will not be seeking reelection to Congress," the 85-year-old Democrat said in a video. AFP

WASHINGTON

Kazakhstan to announce it will join Abraham Accords, says U.S. official

REUTERS

Kazakhstan will announce that it is joining the Abraham Accords on Thursday, a senior U.S. official said, in a largely symbolic move as the country already has ties with Israel. U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff earlier said that a new country would join the accords, under which four Arab nations have normalised ties with Israel. AFP

U.S. circulates draft UN resolution for Gaza plan

Agence France-Presse
UNITED NATIONS

The United States on Wednesday presented a draft UN Security Council resolution to partner nations aimed at bolstering President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan, including by green-lighting an international security force, Washington's mission said.

U.S. Ambassador Mike Waltz shared the draft with the 10 elected members of the Security Council and several regional partners – Egypt, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Turkiye – a spokesperson for the U.S. mission said in a statement.

No date has been set to vote on the draft.

The U.S. statement said the resolution "welcomes the Board of Peace," a transitional governing body for Gaza envisioned in Mr. Trump's 20-point plan, which he would chair. It also "authorises the International Stabilisation Force" (ISF) outlined in the peace plan.

U.S. to cancel flights by 10% as govt. shutdown drags on

FAA to implement cuts gradually; the political stalemate centres on health care funding, with the Democrats seeking to extend insurance subsidies and Republicans demanding govt. reopen first

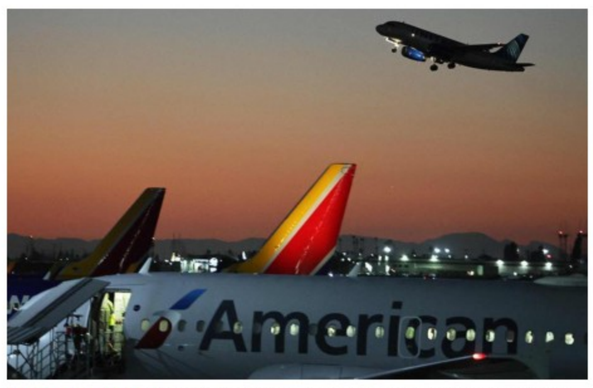
Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

United States officials said the scheduled capacity for flights would be cut by 10% in 40 busy air traffic areas nationwide on Friday as the longest government shutdown drags on.

Federal agencies have been grinding to a halt since Congress failed to approve funding past September 30, with some 1.4 million federal workers, from air traffic controllers to park wardens, still on enforced leave or working without pay.

"There is going to be a 10% reduction in capacity at 40 of our locations," Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy told a White House news briefing on Wednesday, adding that the cuts would come into effect on Friday.

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) chief Bryan Bedford said the reductions would be at "40 high traffic environment markets".



Grounded skies: International flights would not be affected by the reduction in flights, says a source. GETTY IMAGES

The official list of affected airports is expected to be published later on Thursday but, according to U.S. media outlets, flights will be reduced at some of the busiest airports in the nation, including Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, Miami and Washington.

International flights would not be affected by this measure, a source speaking on condition of anonymity told *ABC News*.

Flight reductions will begin at 4% on Friday and gradually reach 10%, media outlets reported.

The government shutdown became the longest in U.S. history on Wednesday, eclipsing the 35-day record set during President Donald Trump's first term. Airport workers calling in sick rather than working without pay was a major factor in Mr. Trump bringing an end to that 2019 shutdown.

However, Democrats and Republicans have both remained unwavering over the main sticking point in the shutdown: health care spending.

Democrats say they will only provide votes to end the funding lapse after a deal has been struck to extend expiring insurance subsidies that make health care affordable for millions of Americans.

Republicans insist they will only address health care once Democrats have voted to switch the lights back on in Washington.

Mr. Trump has sought to apply his own pressure to force Democrats to cave by threatening mass layoffs of federal workers and using the shutdown to target progressive priorities.

Pakistan, Afghanistan trade blame for brief cross-border fighting

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD/KABUL

Pakistan and Afghanistan on Thursday traded blame for brief cross-border fighting, as delegations from both countries were in Turkiye for talks to conclude a ceasefire following deadly clashes.

The Istanbul talks are intended to finalise a truce approved on October 19 in Qatar that ended a week of deadly clashes between the South Asian neighbours.

Security issues are at the heart of their dispute, with Islamabad accusing Kabul of harbouring militant groups, particularly the Pakistani Taliban (TTP), that launch attacks in Pakistan. The Taliban regime denies these allegations.

"While the third round of negotiations with the Pakistani side has begun in Istanbul, unfortunately, this afternoon Pakistani forces once again opened fire on Spin Boldak, causing concern among the local population," Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said.

Zabihullah Mujahid

Pakistan denied the accusation and put the blame on Afghanistan.

"We strongly reject claims circulated by the Afghan side regarding today's incident at the Pak-Afghan border at Chaman," Pakistan's Information Ministry said on X. "Firing was initiated from the Afghan side, to which our security forces responded immediately in a measured and responsible manner."

Meanwhile, a hospital official on the Afghan side said that five people were killed on Thursday in the cross-border fire.

Israel declares Egypt border area 'a closed military zone'

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz on Thursday said he instructed the army to turn the area at the border with Egypt into a closed military zone to combat weapons smuggling via drones.

"I instructed the IDF (military) to turn the area adjacent to the Israel-Egypt border into a closed military zone and to amend the rules of engagement accordingly in order to combat the drone threat that endangers the country's security," Mr. Katz said in a statement.

"Weapon smuggling via drones is part of the war in Gaza and is intended to arm our enemies, and all possible measures must be taken to stop it," he added.

Israel and Egypt share a border that spans nearly 200 km. On Sunday, the Israeli military said it identified a drone that "crossed from the west into Israeli territory in an attempt to smuggle weapons".

Trump's nuclear test threat risks upending global test ban regime

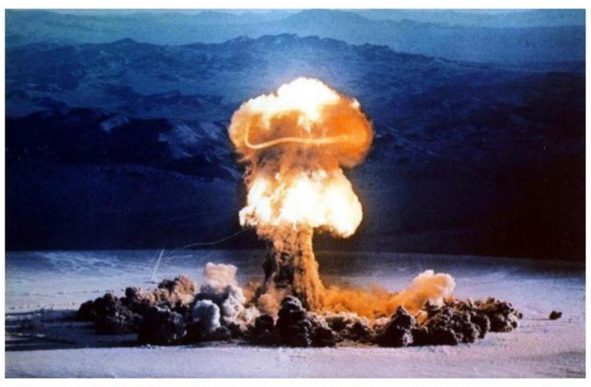
NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

On October 29, just minutes before his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Busan, South Korea, U.S. President Donald Trump said the U.S. would "start testing our nuclear weapons on an equal basis with other nations". Back in the U.S., Mr. Trump repeated his claims in an interview. "Russia is testing; China is testing, but they don't talk about it... And certainly North Korea has been testing. Pakistan has been testing."

Mr. Trump is correct about North Korea, which has tested multiple nuclear weapons in the new century. But other nuclear powers, including the U.S., China and Russia, have maintained a moratorium on weapons testing since the 1990s. They, however, have tested weapons that can carry nuclear warheads. Mr. Trump's announcement came immediately after Russia announced that it successfully tested a nuclear-powered cruise missile (Burevestnik) and an undersea torpedo (Poseidon). Both are designed to overcome American missile defence systems and can carry nuclear warheads. But those were not nuclear detonation tests.

The last time Russia tested a nuclear weapon was in 1990, when the Soviet Union was still alive. The last American nuclear bomb test was held in 1992, and the last Chinese test was in 1996. In 1996, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) banned all nuclear tests, but it never came into force as the required number of countries did not ratify it. The U.S. and China have signed the treaty but never ratified it. Russia had signed and ratified it, but in 2023, amid mounting tensions with the U.S., it decided to de-ratify it.



Deadly detonation: A mushroom cloud rises from a test blast at the Nevada Test Site on June 24, 1957. AP

Debate in the U.S.

Russia remains the world's largest nuclear power with an inventory of 4,309 warheads, according to the Federation of American Scientists. The U.S. comes second with 3,700 weapons, while China is believed to have more than 1,000 warheads. Historically, the U.S. has carried out the most number of nuclear tests – 1,030 detonations, followed by the Soviet Union (715) and the French (210). China has conducted more than 45 nuclear tests. In total, there have been 2,056 nuclear tests since 'Trinity', the first nuclear detonation by the U.S.

In the U.S., the debate on whether the country should resume nuclear tests has been raging for some time. Those who support tests argue that it is important to bolster the country's nuclear deterrent – tests can prove that nuclear arsenals actually work, and provide critical data allowing countries to build more powerful, compact and specialised warheads.

On November 2, U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright said the U.S. would not resume nuclear weapons tests but would conduct "subcritical tests". A subcritical test uses conventional explosives to compress fissile material (Plutonium 239), without triggering nuclear chain reaction or explosion. But Mr. Trump, in another interview, clearly said, "We are going to test nuclear weapons like other countries do."

Devastating effects

The 1963 Partial Test Ban Treaty, signed by the Soviet Union, the U.S. and the U.K., banned all nuclear test detonations in the atmosphere, outer space and underwater. Since then most tests were conducted underground. Even subterranean tests, experts say, could cause devastating environmental damages, including total destruction of ecosystems at test sites and contamination of soil, air and water.

If the U.S. starts testing weapons, it could cause a domino effect on other nuclear powers. There were reports that China had made preparations at Lop Nur, where Mao detonated China's first bomb in 1964, in case it decides to resume testing. Russia was unambiguous in its reaction. "If they begin testing, naturally we will do the same," Russia's Security Council chief Sergey Shoygu said on October 31.

If the U.S. and Russia resume tests, China could do the same. And if China does it, India will come under internal pressure to start testing its weapons. Then Pakistan may not stand out. A new phase of nuclear arms race would begin, with long-term consequences for humanity.

Ukraine drone attack kills one

A massive drone attack on Russian city of Volgograd killed one person and caused a fire in an industrial area, an official said on Thursday, as Ukraine claimed to have struck a nearby refinery. AFP

अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, राजस्थान राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, खण्ड-जयपुर द्वितीय
क्रमांक :- अधि.अभि./जयपुर-II/वि.बो./2025-26/ दिनांक :- 04/11/2025
बिड आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-08/2025-26
राज.रा.कृ.वि.बोर्ड खण्ड जयपुर द्वितीय के विभिन्न निर्माण कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाईन बिड ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट के माध्यम से उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत बिडर्स से आमंत्रित की जाती है । बिड से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in/rsamb पर भी देखा जा सकता है । (UBN No. AGM2526WSOB00680 to 681)
राज.संवाद/सी/25/13244 अधिशाषी अभियन्ता

KERALA IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA
TENDER NOTICE
KIIDC, a Government of Kerala PSU invites offers through two cover e-Tender system from eligible bidders for General Civil Work of the following KIIFB Projects-
1. Construction of IT Park for Kallada Irrigation Headquarters, Ravinagar Campus Kottarakkara, Kollam District (Tender Id: 2025_KIIDC_819637_1),
2. Providing community micro irrigation at the bank of Chinnar River in Idukki District (Tender id: 2025_KIIDC_819813_1).
Details are available in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kiidc.kerala.gov.in
Managing Director

National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Chennai
MeitY, Govt. of India
Vacancy for the multiple Position on Purely Contract Basis
• Finance Officer - 01 No. • Training Coordinator - 01 No.
• Project Engineer (3DP/AM) - 01 No. • Software Developer - 01 No.
Online Interview will be held on 26.11.2025 onwards
For further details, please visit: https://rect.nielitchennai.edu.in
E-mail : chennai@nielit.gov.in Ph : +91 9445880125
Adv.No.01/04/2025/Recruitment/06 Director i/c

RAJASTHAN CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY FEDERATION LIMITED
"SARAS SANKUL", J.L.N. MARG, JAIPUR – 302017, Phone No. 0141-2702501-508, Telefax 0141-2702135
Gram: DAIRYFED: E-mail: rcdfho_jp1@sancharnet.in
No. :- RCDF/F1./Admn/Contract employee/2025/33661 Dated :- 31/10/2025
TENDER/BID NOTICE
RCDF invites tender/Bid online from the eligible agencies for providing the services of service points on job basis (Rate Contract) as mentioned below on outsourcing basis. The last date & time for submission of bid is 24.11.2025 upto 4.00 PM. Technical bid will be opened on dated 24.11.2025 at 4.00 PM. Relevant tender/Bid document containing detailed terms and conditions can be down loaded from the website i.e. http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (Tender ID 2025_RCDF_511001_1) www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in (UBN CDF2526SLRC01139) & www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in.

Category	Total Service Point cost (in Rs.)	Bid Security (in Rs.)	Tender/Bid document cost Including GST (in Rs.)	Tender /Bid Processing Fees (Payable to MD, RISL)	Tender Period
Service points	8.5 Crore	17.00 lakh	2950	2500	Two Year

Raj.Samwad/C/25/13237 GENERAL MANAGER (P&A)

Government of India Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services
Jeevan Deep Building, 2nd Floor Sansad Marg, New Delhi -110 001. Dated: 07-11-2025
Applications invited for appointment of Whole-time Member (Actuary) and Whole- time Member (Distribution) in the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India is established by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. Applications are invited from eligible candidates for following posts:

S. No.	Name of Post	Number of vacancies	Date of vacancies	Consolidated Pay and Allowances
1.	Whole-time Member (Actuary)	1	04.01.2026	₹5.00 lakh per month, without the facility of house and car.
2.	Whole-time Member (Distribution)	1	02.02.2026	₹5.00 lakh per month, without the facility of house and car.

2. Detailed terms and conditions are available on the websites of the Department of Financial Services (http://financialservices.gov.in/) and the Authority (https://www.irdai.gov.in/).
3. Last date for receipt of applications is 01.12.2025
Abdul Gufran
Under Secretary to the Government of India Department of Financial Services
Ministry of Finance Room No. 10, 2nd floor, Jeevan Deep Building, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110001
Tel.: 23748788

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BANGALORE
(ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
PROBATE C.P.NO.15/2025
In the matter of the Assets of the deceased Mr.M.S Akambaram (died Intestate)
BETWEEN: 1. Mrs. AKAMBARAM HELEN JESINTHA VASANTHI
Wife of late Mr. M S Akambaram
Aged about 65 years, Residing at; 11 WAK, Hassan Drive, Singapore - 757669
Email: anymari23@gmail.com
2. Ms. SAVITHA
Daughter of late Mr. M S Akambaram, Aged about 44 years, Residing at; 26 Jalan Datoh #24-04 Singapore - 329425
Email: anymari23@gmail.com
3. Ms. MALATHI
Daughter of late Mr. M S Akambaram, Aged about 41 years, Residing at; 48 St. Thomas Walk, #05-01 Singapore - 238126
Email: mala900@hotmail.com
4. Ms. NIVATHA
Daughter of late Mr. M S Akambaram, Aged about 32 years, Residing at; APT BLK 121B Canberra Street # 13-719, Singapore 752121
Email: nivatha.akambaram@gmail.com
5. Mr. SURANTH
Son of late Mr. M S Akambaram, Aged about 22 years, Residing at; 11 WAK Hassan Drive, Singapore - 757669
Email: suranthak1708@gmail.com
... PETITIONERS
AND
NIL ... RESPONDENT
Whereas the Petitioners above named have made the Petition under Section 278 read with Section 300 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of Letters of Administration of the properties of the deceased Late Mr. M.S Akambaram (hereinafter referred to as the 'deceased'), who had died in Kuala Lumpur Hospital, Malayasia on 16.02.2020, the Deceased was aged 67 years and he was a permanent resident of 11, Wak Hassan Drive Singapore 757 669 which was his fixed abode.
BE IT KNOWN that no Caveat has been entered and that the said Petition is posted for hearing on 08.12.2025 and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the Deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Letters of Administration.
Given under my hand and Seal of this Court, this the 25th day of October 2025.
Assistant Registrar
High Court of Karnataka Bengaluru
ADVOCATE FOR PETITIONER
J Hudson Samuel & Partners
Advocates,
Sir Cariappa Wing, First Floor, Devatha Plaza, Field Marshal K M Cariappa Road, (Residency Road), Bengaluru 560 025.

TARGET AREA

I was looking to hit the good length, says Axar Patel

AP

Player-of-the-Match Axar Patel said he targeted the good length while bowling in the fourth T20I against Australia. "I was thinking what was the batter's strength. If the batter was looking to hit me down the ground, I was looking to hit the good length," said Axar who picked up two for 20 after an unbeaten 11-ball 21.

BLISTERING KNOCK

Quinton de Kock makes merry as South Africa draws parity

AP

Opener Quinton de Kock smashed an unbeaten 123 as South Africa outplayed Pakistan by eight wickets in the second ODI to level the three-match series 1-1. **The scores:** Pakistan 269/9 in 50 overs (Saim 53, Agha 69, Nawaz 59, Burger 4/46, Peter 3/55) lost to SA 270/2 in 40.1 overs (Pretorius 46, de Kock 123 n.o., de Zorzi 76).

CHANGE OF ROLE

RCB names Malolan Rangarajan as women's team head coach

FILE PHOTO

Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Thursday announced Malolan Rangarajan as head coach of the women's team ahead of WPL 2026. The 36-year-old Malolan takes over from Luke Williams after having served as RCB's assistant coach during the past two seasons. He represented Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand in domestic cricket.

NEW ERA

'World Cup triumph a watershed moment for Indian sports'

PTI

Harmanpreet Kaur and her team's maiden World Cup title is not just a turning point for cricket in the country but a watershed moment for Indian sports, feels women's team head coach Amol Muzumdar. "I feel this Women's World Cup must be a watershed moment not just for Indian cricket but a watershed moment for Indian sports".

Axar and Dube star as India takes an unassailable lead

Washington chips in with a three-wicket haul as the Men in Blue comfortably defend 167; Australia folds up for 119 after being 91 for three at one stage; Gill back among the runs at the top of the order; Ellis' fine show with the ball goes in vain

INDIA IN AUSTRALIA

Press Trust of India
CARRARA (GOLD COAST)

India produced a stifling bowling performance to register a 48-run win over Australia in the fourth T20 International to grab an unassailable 2-1 lead in the five-match series here on Thursday.

The architects of India's win were Axar Patel and Shivam Dube who scalped two each to put Australia on the back foot in the run chase.

Washington Sundar struck thrice towards the end as India comfortably defended 167 with Australia folding up for 119 in 18.2 overs after being 91 for three at one stage.

Growing in stature: Axar followed up his cameo with a couple of wickets to swing the tie in India's favour. AP

Promising start

Openers Mitchell Marsh (30 off 24 balls) and Matthew Short (25 off 19) got Australia off the blocks smoothly but a flurry of wickets in the middle overs pushed the host to a point of no return.

After Axar trapped Short leg-before in the PowerPlay and castled Josh Inglis for 12, Dube removed Marsh and Tim David (14 off nine) in successive overs to make a telling impact on the game.

The wicket of Marsh came off his second ball before he surprised David with a short ball in the following over.

Arshdeep Singh too picked a wicket in the middle overs and the game seemed done and dusted when Glenn Maxwell saw his exposed stumps disturbed off the last ball of Varun Chakaravarthy's fourth over.

The stellar performance came after a middling batting effort.

India never got the momentum it needed after a wicket-less PowerPlay to end up with 167 for eight.

Abhishek Sharma (28 off 21) and Shubman Gill (46 off 39) put on 56 for the opening wicket before India lost its way. Promoted to No. 3 to counter Adam Zampa (three for 45), Dube (22 off 18) could not make a big impact while skipper Suryakumar Yadav (20 off 10) departed after hitting a couple of sixes.

Pacer Nathan Ellis (three for 21) was the pick of the Australian bowlers, using his variations effectively.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Abhishek Sharma c David b Zampa 28 (*21b, 3x4, 1x6*), Shubman Gill b Ellis 46 (*39b, 4x4, 1x6*), Shivam Dube b Ellis 22 (*18b, 1x4, 1x6*), Suryakumar Yadav c David b Bartlett 20 (*10b, 2x6*), Tilak Varma c Inglis b Zampa 5 (*6b*), Jitesh Sharma lbw b Zampa 3 (*4b*), Washington Sundar c sub (Kuhnemann) b Ellis 12 (*7b, 2x4*), Axar Patel (not out) 21 (*11b, 1x4, 1x6*), Arshdeep Singh c Philippe b Stoinis 0 (*3b*), Varun Chakaravarthy (not out) 1 (*1b*); Extras (lb-3, w-6): 9; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 167.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-56 (Abhishek, 6.4 overs), 2-88 (Dube, 11.3), 3-121 (Gill, 14.1), 4-125 (Suryakumar 15.1), 5-131 (Tilak, 16.1), 6-136 (Jitesh, 16.4), 7-152 (Washington, 18.4), 8-164 (Arshdeep, 19.4).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Dwarshuis 4-0-31-0, Bartlett 4-0-26-1, Ellis 4-0-21-3, Stoinis 4-0-41-1, Zampa 4-0-45-3.

AUSTRALIA

Mitchell Marsh c Arshdeep b Dube 30 (*24b, 4x4*), Matthew Short lbw b Axar 25 (*19b, 2x4, 2x6*), Josh Inglis b Axar 12 (*11b, 2x4*), Tim David c Suryakumar b Dube 14 (*9b, 1x4, 1x6*), Josh Philippe c Varun b Arshdeep 10 (*10b, 1x4*), Marcus Stoinis lbw b Washington 17 (*19b, 2x4*), Glenn Maxwell b Varun 2 (*4b*), Ben Dwarshuis b Bumrah 5 (*7b*), Xavier Bartlett c & b Washington 0 (*1b*), Nathan Ellis (not out) 2 (*5b*), Adam Zampa c Gill b Washington 0 (*1b*); Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (in 18.2 overs): 119.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-37 (Short, 4.5) 2-67 (Inglis, 8.5), 3-70 (Marsh, 9.2), 4-91 (David, 11.3), 5-98 (Philippe, 13.1), 6-103 (Maxwell, 14.6), 7-116 (Stoinis, 16.4), 8-116 (Bartlett, 16.5), 9-118 (Dwarshuis, 17.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Arshdeep 3-0-22-1, Bumrah 4-0-27-1, Varun 4-0-26-1, Axar 4-0-20-2, Dube 2-0-20-2, Washington 1.2-0-3-3.

Toss: Australia; **PoM:** Axar.

India won by 48 runs to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Final T20I: Nov. 8: Brisbane, 1.45 p.m. IST.

Praggnanandhaa survives a scare; Nihal crashes out

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

He began as one of the strongest favourites, but he was virtually just one move away from an early exit. R. Praggnanandhaa, however, survived that scare, thanks in small measure to his opponent's terrible mistake, went on to win a gruelling tie-breaker and entered the third round of the chess World Cup.

The third seed from Chennai finally prevailed over the Uzbekistan-born Australian Temur Kuybokarov in the third set of tie-breakers at Resort Rio here on Thursday.

Like him, S.L. Narayanan also progressed by winning both games in the day's third set of games against his higher-rated Russian rival Nikita Vitiugov.

Vidit Gujrathi, V. Pranav and M. Pranesh had easier passages into the third round, winning their first set of tie-breakers against Faustino Oro of Argentina, Aryan Tari of Norway and Dmitrij Kollars of Germany, respectively. But, there was disappointment for Nihal Sarin, Raunak Sadhwani and Karthikeyan Murali, who all lost.

So, out of the eight Indians to play the tie-breakers, five won and they will join five of their compatriots in the third round. D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, P. Harikrishna, Diptayan Ghosh and Karthik Venkataraman had qualified on Wednesday itself, winning their matches in the classical format.

Great escape: Praggnanandhaa won a gruelling tie-breaker to keep his hopes alive. FIDE

Nihal's defeat was indeed a big setback for the host. The 22nd seed lost the first tie-breaker and could only draw in the second, as Greece's Stamatis Kourkoulos-Arditis proved a thorn in the flesh for the Indians; he had beaten Divya Deshmukh in the first round.

The highest seed to crash out on this day was the American Hans Niemann. The tenth seed was beaten by Italy's Lorenzo Lodici, whose win in the first tie-breaker game proved enough to book an unexpected ticket to the third round.

Important results (second round): R. Praggnanandhaa bt Temur Kuybokarov (Aus) 1-1, 1-1, 2-0; Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) bt Dennis Makhnev (Kaz) 1.5-0.5; Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) bt Gergely Kantor (Hun) 2-0; Lorenzo Lodici (Ita) bt Hans Niemann (USA) 1.5-0.5; Vidit Gujrathi bt Faustino Oro (Arg) 1.5-0.5.

Yu Yangyi (Chn) bt Felix Blohberge (Aut) 1-1, 1-1, 1.5-0.5; Stamatis Kourkoulos-Arditis (Gre) bt Nihal Sarin 1.5-0.5; V. Pranav bt Aryan Tari (Nor) 1.5-0.5; M. Pranesh bt Dmitrij Kollars (Ger) 2-0; Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur) bt Bu Xiangzhi (Chn) 1.5-0.5; Daniil Dubo (Rus) bt Bai Jinshi (Chn) 1-1, 2-0; Radoslav Wojtaszek (Pol) bt Maxime Lagarde (Fra) 1.5-0.5; S.L. Narayanan bt Nikita Vitiugov (Rus)) 1-1, 1-1, 2-0; Pouya Idani (Ira) bt Karthikeyan Murali; 1-1, 1-1, 1.5-0.5; Samuel Sevian (USA) bt Tin Jingya (Sgp) 2-0; Daniel Dardha (Bel) bt Grigoriy Oparin (USA) 1.5-0.5; Vladislav Artemeiv (Rus) bt Haik Martirosyan (Arm) 1.5-0.5; Nils Grandelius (Swe) bt Etienne Barcot (Fra) 1.5-0.5; Shamsiddin Vokhidov (Uzb) bt Maksim Chigaev (Esp) 2-0; Robert Hovhannisyan (Arm) bt Raunak Sadhwani 2-0.

Harmanpreet, Smriti, Jemimah and Richa among those retained

WPL

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Deepti Sharma and South Africa skipper Laura Wolvaardt were released by UP Warriorz and Gujarat Giants respectively ahead of the Women's Premier League (WPL) auction on Thursday.

Deepti, who scored 215 runs and claimed 22 wickets to be adjudged the Player of the Tournament during the World Cup, and also the player-of-the-tournament in the 2024 WPL season, was not retained by the Warriorz.

The franchise chose to retain only former under-19 World Cup-winner Shweta Sehrawat.

Gujarat Giants, too, decided to release Wolvaardt, who finished as the World Cup's top run-getter. It opted to retain the Australian duo of Beth Mooney and Ashleigh Gardner.

Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma and Richa Ghosh have all been retained by their respective franchises.

Australian stalwarts Alyssa Healy (UP Warriorz) and Meg Lanning (Delhi Capitals), along with New Zealand's Amelia Kerr (Mumbai Indians), have been released.

Mumbai Indians also retained five players, including G. Kamalini, and Nat Sciver-Brunt was retained at a higher price than skipper Harmanpreet.

For the first time, the WPL will also allow franchises to exercise a Right-To-Match (RTM) option at the auction.

The mega auction will take place in New Delhi on November 27.

Star players: Harmanpreet will continue in Mumbai Indians while Smriti stays with RCB. FILE PHOTOS: EMMANUAL YOGINI & K. MURALI KUMAR

The retained players: Mumbai Indians: Nat-Sciver Brunt (₹3.5 crore), Harmanpreet Kaur (₹2.5 cr), Hayley Matthews (₹1.75 cr), Amanjot Kaur (₹1 cr), G. Kamalini (₹50 lakh).

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Smriti Mandhana (₹3.5 cr), Richa Ghosh (₹2.75 cr), Ellyse Perry (₹2 cr), Shreyanka Patil (₹60 lakh).

Gujarat Giants: Ashleigh Gardner (₹3.5 cr), Beth Mooney (₹2.5 cr).

UP Warriorz: Shweta Sehrawat (₹50 lakh).

Delhi Capitals: Jemimah Rodrigues (₹2.2 cr), Shafali Verma (₹2.2 cr), Annabel Sutherland (₹2.2 cr), Marizanne Kapp (₹2.2 cr), Niki Prasad (₹50 lakh).

Ahmedabad set to host 2026 T20 WC summit clash

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The BCCI has shortlisted Ahmedabad, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai as the venues for next year's T20 World Cup with the final to be played in Ahmedabad.

It is learnt that the ICC will announce the full schedule of the February-March tournament next week. It is expected to begin on February 7 with the final likely to be held on March 8.

The event will be co-hosted by Sri Lanka which will act as a neutral venue for Pakistan as per an agreed arrangement with India.

Three venues in Sri Lanka will host the games, including Kandy and Colombo. The third venue is not locked in yet.

If Pakistan reaches the final, the summit clash will be played in Sri Lanka. Irrespective of the host nation, India and Pakistan will play at a neutral venue till 2027, as per the agreement reached by the ICC, BCCI and the PCB.

Own goal helps MCFC edge KBFC, enter the last four

SUPER CUP

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
MARGAO

An 88th-minute own goal by Freddy Lallawmawma knocked Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC) out while Mumbai City FC (MCFC) bagged the final spot in the AIFF Super Cup semifinals at the PJN Stadium here on Thursday.

Unlike MCFC's previous cagey clash against Rajasthan United (RUFC), this match was mostly end-to-end, with KBFC dictating the attack early on.

Tiago Alves came close to scoring in the fifth minute when he got a through pass from Koldo Obieta, but his right-footed shot failed to find enough curl.

Five minutes later, Alves set up Obieta, forcing a save by MCFC custodian Phurba Lachenpa.

MCFC's first chance came in the 23rd minute when Jorge Ortiz took a left-footed hit from distance, forcing an acrobatic save by Nora Fernandes.

KBFC was reduced to 10 men seconds before half-time when Sandeep Singh pulled Vikram Partap Singh back along the left flank.

Keen tussle: Action from the MCFC-KBFC match.
INSTAGRAM@MUMBAICITYFC

In the second half, KBFC came close to scoring within seven minutes when Obieta's header fell for Dusan Lagator, but Jose Tiri cleared it at the last minute.

Fatal error

Ten minutes from time, as it stood, a draw meant KBFC would qualify.

But a late defensive error turned the match on its head: Jorge Pereyra Diaz's cross for Ortiz was intercepted by Freddy, but the ball rolled into the net with Nora caught ball-watching.

MCFC will meet FC Goa in the semifinals here on December 4.

Earlier in the day, Sporting Club Delhi earned its first point before bowing out, holding RUFC 2-2 and ending the I-League club's semifinal aspirations, at the GMC Athletic Stadium in Bambolim.

The results: Rajasthan United FC 2 (Astray 22, Blandon 35) drew with Sporting Club Delhi 2 (Sourav 61, Alan 90+4).

Mumbai City FC 1 (Freddy 88-og) bt Kerala Blasters FC 0.

Sabalenka beats Gauff, joins Pegula in semifinals

Agencies
RIYADH

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka willed her way out of trouble and went on to a 7-6(5), 6-2 victory against Coco Gauff to book her semifinal berth at the WTA Finals here on Thursday.

On Friday, the top-seeded Sabalenka will take on fourth seed Amanda Anisimova in the last four while the fifth-seeded Jessica Pegula meets the sixth seed Elena Rybakina in the other semifinal.

While the first set was effectively a dead heat, Sabalenka wrested control in the second. "I was just trying to stay aggressive, to find my rhythm, find my game. I was kind of working for the second set already but I was able to turn it around," said Sabalenka.

Earlier, Pegula posted a 6-2, 6-3 win over the eighth seed Jasmine Paolini.

Rybakina and Anisimova had punched their tickets to the final four on Wednesday.

The results: Pegula bt Paolini 6-2, 6-3; Sabalenka bt Gauff 7-6(5), 6-2.

INBRIEF

Hermann to replace injured Brevis in SA squad

Cricket South Africa on Thursday called up wicketkeeper-batter Rubin Hermann for the remainder of the ODI series against Pakistan as a replacement for injured Dewald Brevis. Brevis, who hurt his shoulder while fielding during the third T20I in Lahore, will remain with the squad to prepare for the Test tour of India, starting on November 14.

Para-archer Sheetal qualifies for India's able-bodied team

Para-archer Sheetal Devi, the world compound champion born without arms, was on Thursday picked in the Indian able-bodied junior team for the upcoming Asia Cup Stage 3 in Jeddah. Competing among more than 60 able-bodied archers from across the country under identical conditions, the 18-year-old finished third overall in the national selection trials held. Tejal Salve (15.75 points) and Vaidehi Jadhav (15) took the top two spots, while Sheetal was third with 11.75.

Teams: Recurve: Men: Rampal Choudhary, Rohit Kumar, Mayank Kumar. **Women:** K. Yuktha Sri, Vaishnavi Kulkarni, Kratika Bichpuriya.

Compound: Men: Pradhuman Yadav, Vasu Yadav, Devansh Singh. **Women:** Tejal Salve, Vaidehi Jadhav, Sheetal Devi.

Adarsh and Poorvi emerge 200m champions

A. Adarsh and Poorvi Harikantra emerged the boys' and girls' 200m athletics champions respectively at the fourth Karnataka Mini State Games in Bengaluru on Thursday. While Adarsh came home in 24.18s, Poorvi crossed the line in 26.45s.

LIVE TELECAST

Chess: World Cup, FIDE YouTube channel, 3 p.m.

Formula One: Sao Paulo GP (Sprint Shootout), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 12 a.m. (Saturday)

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)

Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Jurel's sublime century lifts India-A

The batter's crucial partnerships with Kuldeep, Siraj take the home team to 255 from 126 for seven; pacer van Vuuren picks up four wickets

INDIA-A VS SA-A

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Indian cricket is a crowded marketplace. It is tough to stand out and even tougher to consistently do so. But even in this chaotic and unpredictable setting, Dhruv Jurel performs like a solid blue-chip stock - reliable, always growing and unaffected by the upheaval all around him.

On Thursday at the BCCI Centre of Excellence near here, the 24-year-old showed his worth yet again with a sublime unbeaten century (132 n.o., 175b, 12x4, 4x6) for India-A against South Africa-A on a green pitch with good carry and bounce where his 10 other comrades totalled only 114 runs.

The three-figure knock - his third in seven First Class innings after the 140 versus Australia-A and the 125 against West Indies -helped his side make 255, a figure that seemed distant from 126 for seven after India-A was asked to bat first.

Jurel, who has now seemingly patented the art of batting with the lower middle-order and tail, combined for 79 runs with Kuldeep Yadav for the eighth wicket and 34 with Mohammed Siraj for the ninth.

He drove, steered and pulled the pacers confidently and smashed off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen for four maximums.

But the ease with which Jurel batted was in stark contrast to that of his teammates. K.L. Rahul (19) and Devdutt Padikkal (5) both fell fishing outside the off-stump to left-arm speedster Tiaan van Vuuren (four for 52) while Abhimanyu Easwaran (0) and B. Sai Sudharsan (17) were pinned to the crease and trapped in front.

Rishabh Pant scored at his customary pace (24, 20b, 3x4, 1x6) but flat-batted a catch to mid-off after stepping out to fast-bowler Tshepo Moreki.

Apart from Jurel, Kuldeep emerged with immense credit. He has often missed out of the Indian National playing XI because the team management has prioritised batting depth. But he came up with a sound display of his secondary skill, gobbling up 88 balls for his 20 and providing Jurel with timely support.

It was reminiscent of the duo's match-turning - and ultimately match-winning - 76-run association versus England in Ranchi last year during which Kuldeep swallowed 131 balls for 28 runs. Will the latest iteration have the same effect?

The scores: India-A 255 in 77.1 overs (Dhruv Jurel 132 n.o., Tiaan van Vuuren 4/52) vs. South Africa-A; **Toss:** South Africa-A.

Lone-ranger: Jurel's knock included 12 boundaries and four maximums. K. MURALI KUMAR

Smriti. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Smriti in the race for ICC Player of the Month award

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

India opener Smriti Mandhana has been nominated for the ICC Women's Player of the Month for October after her string of brilliant performances in the Women's ODI World Cup.

The India vice-captain will be vying for the honour along with South African skipper Laura Wolvaardt and dynamic Australia batter Ashleigh Gardner.

City hammers Dortmund; Inter stays perfect; Barca fights back for a draw

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Manchester City eased to a 4-1 win over Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday to stay unbeaten in the Champions League and Inter Milan kept up its perfect start, while Barcelona salvaged a point at Club Brugge. Pep Guardiola's City has 10 points from four matches and is fourth in the table at the halfway stage of the league phase.

Inter moved back alongside Bayern Munich and Arsenal at the top with a fourth straight win after scraping past Kazakh outsider Kairat Almaty.

Ofri Arad cancelled out Lautaro Martinez's opener nine minutes after half-time but a thumping low drive from Carlos Augusto snatched Inter a 2-1 victory, bolstering its hopes of qualifying directly for the last 16.

Star turn: Foden scores his second and City's third against Dortmund. AFP

Barcelona came from behind three times to rescue a 3-3 draw in Belgium.

Barca's defence was shredded on multiple occasions by the host as Brugge winger Carlos Forbs struck twice and set one up for Nicolo Tresoldi.

Ferran Torres, Lamine Yamal and a Christos Tzolis own goal saved Barca from what would have been a humiliating defeat.

Alejandro Garnacho spared Chelsea's blushes as the Argentine's equaliser rescued a 2-2 draw against Qarabag.

The results: Qarabag 2 (Andrade 29, Jankovic 39-pen) drew with Chelsea 2 (Estevao 16, Garnacho 53); Pafos 1 (Luckassen 46) bt Villarreal 0.

Ajax 0 lost to Galatasaray 3 (Osimhen 59, 66-pen, 78-pen); Club Brugge 3 (Tresoldi 6, Forbs 17, 63) drew with Barcelona 3 (Torres 8, Yamal 61, Tzolis 77-og).

Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 45, Augusto 67) bt Kairat Almaty 1 (Arad 55); Marseille 0 lost to Atalanta 1 (Samardzic 90).

Manchester City 4 (Foden 22, 57, Haaland 29, Cherki 90+1) bt Borussia Dortmund 1 (Anton 72); Newcastle 2 (Burn 11, Joelinton 49) bt Athletic Bilbao 0; Benfica 0 lost to Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Schick 65).

Junior hockey WC trophy tour to start from Friday

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The prestigious Men's Junior Hockey World Cup trophy will travel across 20 cities in India on a nationwide tour, starting here on Friday before returning to Tamil Nadu.

The tour will officially kick off on Friday during the Hockey India centenary celebrations in the presence of Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, FIH President Dato Tayyab Ikram, Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey, Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh and Treasurer Sekar J Manoharan.

The 20 cities include Chandigarh, Amritsar, Lucknow, Jammu, Pune and Hyderabad.

The tournament is set to be co-hosted by Chennai and Madurai from November 28 till December 10.

Chapman. AFP

New Zealand levels series against West Indies

Press Trust of India
AUCKLAND (NEW ZEALAND)

Mark Chapman smashed 78 from 28 balls as New Zealand beat the West Indies by three runs and levelled the series 1-1 here on Thursday.

The scores: New Zealand 207/5 in 20 overs (Tim Robinson 39, Mark Chapman 78, Roston Chase 2/33) bt West Indies 204/8 in 20 overs (Alick Athanaze 33, Rovman Powell 45, Romario Shepherd 34, Ish Sodhi 3/39, Mitchell Santner 3/31);

Toss: West Indies.

PoM: Chapman.

Australian-born Williams awaits NOC after inclusion in India probables

FOOTBALL

Neeladri Bhattcharjee
MARGAO

The Indian men's National football team is likely to have Australian-born forward Ryan Williams after he was included in the national camp for the third round of AFC Asian Cup qualifiers.

Williams, who plays for Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League, is in his third season at the club. The forward, born in Perth, is awaiting a No Objection Certificate from Football Australia to switch his nationality and could be available for the qualifier against Bangladesh on November 18.

Williams has given up his Australian passport for an Indian one.

He also has Indian roots, with his maternal grandfather, Lincoln Grostate, playing for the Western India Football Association in the 1950s.

His twin brother, Aryn, has also played in India, for NEROCA in the I-League between 2017 and 2019.

New beginning: Ryan Williams in action for Bengaluru FC in the last ISL. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Williams has represented the Socceroos at the U-19 and U-20 levels before earning his maiden and only senior call-up against South Korea in a friendly in 2019.

According to FIFA Statutes, Williams can switch nationality since his senior appearance was not in a competitive fixture.

Williams's inclusion in the camp could be the beginning of a new trend for Indian football, where foreign players give up their passports to play for India.

"We are exploring how PIO/OCI players can align with FIFA statutes, Indian citizenship laws, and the national sports policy. This is an ongoing process, and until we receive clarity from FIFA and the Government of India, we cannot disclose any names," Kalyan Chaubey, the president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF), had told Sportstar in an earlier interview.

Williams played a major chunk of his club football in the United Kingdom and Australia, winning the English Football League trophy with Barnsley in 2016.In the absence of Mohun Bagan SG's players in the camp, Williams could be an adept alternative to Manvir Singh or Liston Colaco.

The other name on the list is Abneet Bharti, a 27-year-old centre-back, who plays for Academia del Balompie Boliviano (ABB) in Bolivia.

In 2018, he was included in Italian magazine Calciomercato's list of most promising Asian players under the age of 22. With a frame of 185 cm, the centre-back provides a valuable option alongside Anwar Ali, with Sandesh Jhingan now 32 years old.

Bharti, however, will be included for trials, which will eventually decide his inclusion.

India's head coach, Khalid Jamil, announced his list of probables on Wednesday, excluding Bagan's players and record goalscorer Sunil Chhetri.

However, the list is subject to change if Bagan releases its players for the camp.

Alcaraz and Djokovic in same group in ATP Finals

Associated Press
TURIN

Top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz was drawn in a group with Novak Djokovic at the ATP Finals, while defending champion Jannik Sinner was grouped with Alexander Zverev on Thursday.

The Jimmy Connors group features Alcaraz, Djokovic, Taylor Fritz and Alex de Minaur.

The Bjorn Borg group has Sinner, Zverev, Ben Shelton and Felix Auger-Aliassime or Lorenzo Musetti, who are battling for the final spot.

Auger-Aliassime occupies the eighth and final qualifying spot but Musetti can leapfrog the Canadian if he wins a tournament in Athens this week.

The status of Djokovic, who is also playing in Athens, is questionable.

Djokovic sat out the event last year and has said he will decide whether to play or not after the Athens tournament.

The finals start on Sunday with round-robin play.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Ayaan Waheed dazzles

An all-round performance from Ayaan Waheed Mohammad (74 & six for 22) helped Kapali CC beat Young Pioneer CC by 39 runs in the KSCA (Group I) U-14 inter-club tournament.

The scores: City Gymkhana 257/8 in 50 overs (M. Jashwanth 67, Bhairav Gowda 57) bt Modern 70 in 35.3 overs (K.J. Meghan 5/20).

Hammonds 232/9 in 50 overs (Vikrant Ronav Budala 76, Sangeeta Rao Sashang 84) bt Vijaya, Malur 184 in 45 overs (Aerit Singh 47).

Kapali 166 in 46.1 overs (Ayaan Waheed Mohammad 74) bt Young Pioneer 127 in 44.1 overs (Ayaan Waheed Mohammad 6/22).

Super 107 in 32.1 overs (Abhirath Praveen 40) lost to South End SC 108/8 in 29 overs.

Bangalore SC 407/2 in 50 overs (Pavandeep R. Bharadakane 108, Trishaan Sethi 33, K. Hrithik Polin 132 n.o., Krishna 120 n.o.) bt Bharath 46 in 29.4 overs.

Jayanagar United Cricketers 146 in 49.3 overs lost to Young Lions Club 147/4 in 45.5 overs (Mohammed Yaseen 82 n.o.).

Friends Union Cricketers, KGF 123 in 47 overs lost to Southern Cricketers 124/1 in 28.5 overs (Chayaank Pradeep 43 n.o., Likhith Gangappa Gaddi 52 n.o.).

Neptune 68 in 19.5 overs (Vyom Naidu 5/23) lost to Social Cricketers 69/1 in 8.4 overs (Athreya Bhat 45 n.o.).

Engrades 180 in 49.4 overs (Gnanesh Subramani 40) bt Cambridge 105 in 38.1 overs.

Mathikere 173/9 in 50 overs bt FUCC (2) 94 in 38 overs.

Vishal shines for United Stars FC

R. Vishal scored a brace as United Stars FC blanked Bharat Bengaluru FC 4-0 in the KSFA Super Division League Championship here on Thursday.

The results: United Stars FC 4 (R. Vishal 34, 70, Narendra Prasad Vincent 53, Saravana Kumar 90+2) bt Bharat Bengaluru FC 0; Parikrma FC 3 (K. Jiyad Abdul 7, Haominthang Kipgen 71, 87) bt MEG & Centre FC 2 (Lallaswmkima 40, Niyas Nazar 86); Bengaluru FC 3 (Md. Abrash 18, Ning Thou Khong Jam Singh 21, Abhishek Adhikari 56) bt Bangalore Dream United FC 1 (K. Lalrinfela 81).

Swimming competition

The fourth edition of the Nettakallappa Swimming Competition will be conducted on November 8 and 9 at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre in Bengaluru. Some of India's best swimmers like Srihari Nataraj and Dhinidhi Desinghu are expected to take part in the event that will carry an overall prize purse of around ₹10 lakh.